THE DESCENDANTS OF

VON FARNE, FARNI, FAHRNI

FROM ERIZ IN SWITZERLAND

ANCESTORS OF FORNEY, FAHRNEY



THE DESCENDANTS OF

CHRISTANUS VON FARNE

&

BARBARA MATHYSENN

FROM FARNE & ERIZ

MARRIED IN 1554 IN THE REFORMED

CHURCH OF STEFFISBURG,

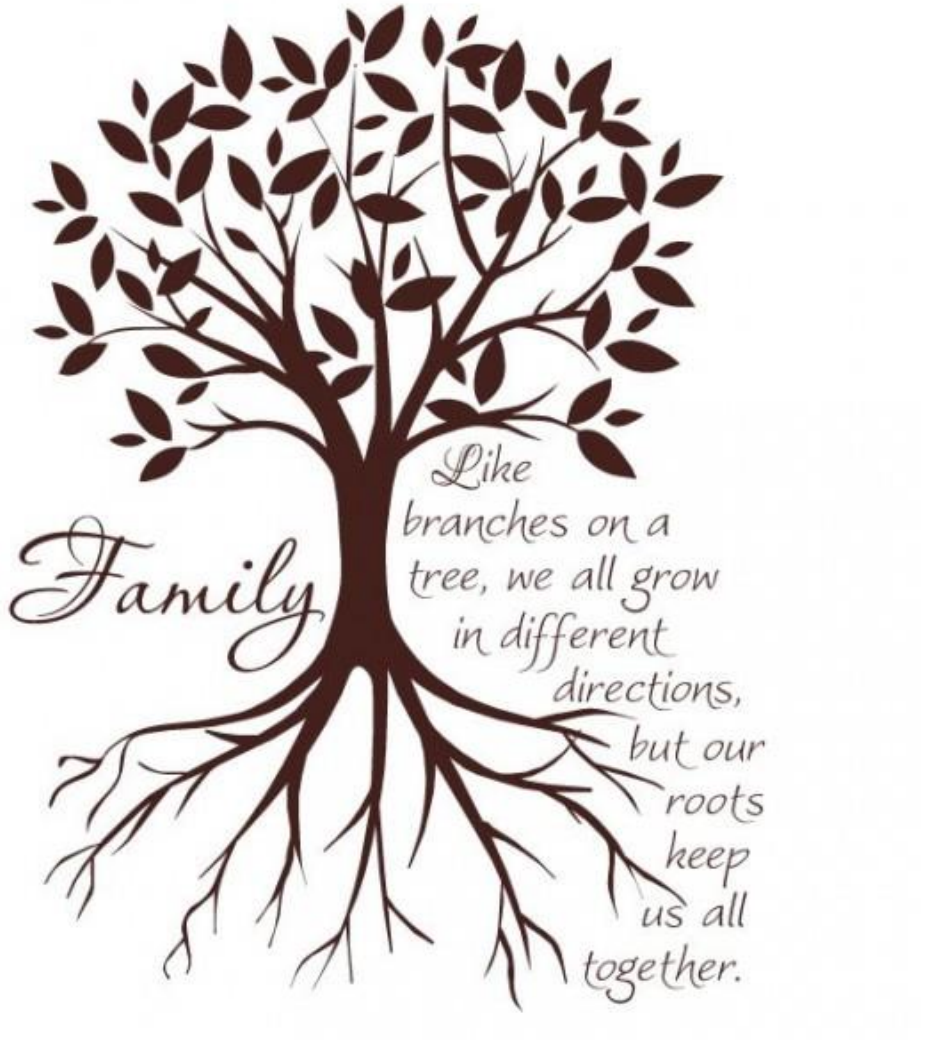
CANTON BERN IN SWITZERLAND.

THE MAIN FAMILY BRANCHES ARE:

FARNI - FAHRNI - FAHRNEY – FORNEY

BY GOTTFRIED FAHRNI
FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION





This Fahrni Family Book is dedicated with love to
our two sons, Nicolas and Stéphane.

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PREFACE

The mountain village of Fahrni is located about 15 km North of the city of Thun, in the canton of Bern, Switzerland. It lies near the grand alpine heart of the Berner Oberland with its high peaks and picturesque valleys. Earlier spellings of the village indicate a relation to **Farn** (the **fern** plant); an area where a large amount of fern was growing or where people were dealing with fern. The first record of this hamlet dates back to the second part of the Middle Ages, when in 1299 the archives of the nearby Monastery of Fraubrunnen indicate that the village of **Varne** (now Fahrni) was paying taxes to their Abbey. Records show that at that time the Varne village had 324 inhabitants and the region was under the rule of the Holy Roman Empire, more precisely under the Kyburg and later the Habsburg overlords. In 1384, the **Varne** village belonged to the Steffisburg jurisdiction, which was part of the bailiwick of Thun, ruled by the City of Bern. Over time, the spelling of our village evolved from Varne to **F**arn (fern) to Farn**e,** to Farn**i** and finally to Fa**h**rni. Many farm houses are scattered throughout the valley of Fahrni as seen below.



Fahrni valley



Fahrni Municipal panel



The Von Farne mountain farmer of Eriz valley

How did our ancestors from the Farne village become mountain farmers in the Eriz valley? The inheritance law in effect during the 16th Century Emmental and Thun regions prevented the split of a farming estate in a succession transaction; it was common that the youngest son of a family would take over the father's real estate. Some of the elder brothers would remain on the farm as family helpers whereas others, with more ambitions, would move out to start a new life elsewhere. Unless the father had enough cash to give the due share of the inheritance to his other children, the son taking over the estate had to mortgage the farm to pay off his siblings. It was also customary that the successor son would provide lodging and food to his parents until their death; hence the small house named "Stockli", usually standing to that effect next to the main farmhouse.

There are good reasons to assume that, more than 500 years ago, our ancestors left their family farming unit in the Farne (now Fahrni) village due to the above inheritance law. Several brothers found employment as a "Kuher ", sort of cow boy, to look after the cow herds during the Summer months in the well-known mountain pasturelands of the nearby Eriz valley. As family names were not yet common among ordinary people, the inhabitants of the Eriz valley identified our ancestors as, for example, Peter "von Farne", coming from the Farne village.

In those days, the Bernese mountain regions (locally known as the lower Alps) belonged partly to the aristocracy and patricians of the capital Bern, and partly to the powerful monasteries such as Interlaken. These Alpine regions were too high in altitude to be productive, with the exception of wood cutting and the renting out of pastureland during the 100-day summer period. Transhumance farming is a tradition that is still in use today, with large farmers from the lowlands of the Seeland, Emmental and Entlebuch regions who would send their cow herds up to the rich pastureland of Eriz during summer time. The farmers would pay a rental fee to the owners of the mountains for taking care of their livestock. The land owners of these mountain regions would provide shelter facilities for the animals and put up fences around their land and hire an experienced and trustworthy local farmer "Kuher".

This local farmer, or "Kuher", would look after and manage the cow herds during the three months of Alp pasturing, aka Alpweidung. The remunerated Kuher would also be responsible for the maintenance of the fences and managing the forests. Even more important, such a "Kuher", or cow boy, would also be a good cheese maker, as the rich mountain grass with its large variety of flowers and herbs resulted in an exceptionally fatty milk, good to make a typical local cheese that became to be known as the "Emmentaler Cheese" a specialty reputed worldwide for past centuries. Already in those days, the Emmentaler cheese of this region was exported to the capitals of Europe.

If the Kuher was trustworthy and hardworking, he became a good asset to the landowners who were generally living in town and visiting their possession only once or twice a year. The owners would rely on their "Kuher" for the good maintenance of the cow herds, the fencing, the cheese making and the cutting of the trees as these were the three sources of revenues. A good Kuher would gradually be granted to have his own animals, normally a couple of cows and some pigs. The ambitious Kuher would negotiate a larger self-owned herd of animals and, once he could afford it, would purchase part of that mountain pastureland from the overlords of Bern and thereby become an independent mountain farmer.



Alpine pastureland

Introduction of Family names

Up to the 14th century, common people in Europe went by with a Christian name only, and sometimes the term "son of" was added for clarity. With the population growth, a need was felt for more precise identification of individuals which led to the introduction of permanent and hereditary family names. Those prominent and active members of a village who had a trade and who migrated outside of their community adopted the name of the place they originated from and were identified by their peers as such. In our case, **Hans von Farne** (John "from the village of" Farne) was the identification. Other patronymics of places were Berger (who lives in the mountain), Imhof (who lives in farmyard) etc. Some of those who did not leave their village derived their patronymics from their occupation, e.g. Schmid/Smith, Muller/Miller, Schreiner/Carpenter, Becker/Baker, Schaerer/Barber, Sattler/Saddler, Schuhmacher/Shoemaker, Jaeger/Hunter, Kaufmann/Merchant, etc. Others were named after their physical or personal appearances, e.g. Kurtz/Short, Weiss/White, Frei/Free, Roth/Red, Hartmann/Hardman, etc.

Spelling of Family names

After the Reformation in around the years 1530, family names were spelt phonetically by the protestant church officials who acted as the centre of all communal life of the population and were fully integrated into the feudal system. They decided on the orthography of family names in the three church books (christenings, weddings and burials) without consultation with the people concerned as a large part of the population was illiterate. As a result, the spelling of our ancestors' patronymic evolved over the centuries from **von Farn**, to **von Farne**, to **Farne**, followed by **Farni** and finally **Fahrni.** The patronymic changed further when some of our ancestors emigrated, as was the case with the USA where immigrants were requested by law in some States to Americanize their family names. Schmidt became Smith, Zimmerman became Carpenter, Farni became **Forney** in the 18th century and the latest spelling of Fahrni became **Fahrney** in the 19th century.

8 The heraldic symbol displayed in the Shield of our **Fahrni coat of arms** represents three leaves of Fern in natural green, in motion on small mounts of sand. The Field , or background, is in warm gold color and the helmet is mounted by a crest of three feathers.



Our ancestral Fahrni pedigree was first represented in the Steffisburg area of canton Bern during the early sixteenth Century. Around year 1500, several residents of the village of Farne emigrated to nearby Eriz and as family names were not common in those days, the inhabitants of Eriz identified our ancestors as, say "**Hans" von Farne** (von = from the village of).

FAHRNI of Eriz, Steffisburg, canton Bern, Switzerland --→

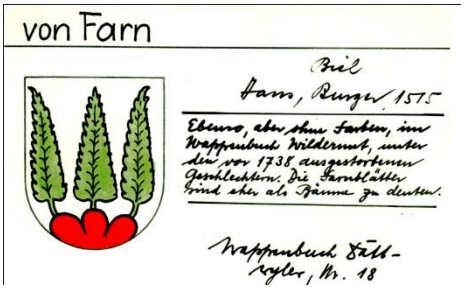
The coat of arms of the **village of Fahrni** bears the emblem of a fern leaf on a red background. The name Fahrni originates from the plant Fern ------→ (**Farn** in German) indicating a geographical area where the fern plant was abundant. The patronymic spelling evolved over time from **Varne** in 1299 to **Farn** (fern) in the 16th Century, to **Farne,** to **Farni** and finally to **Fahrni** as of the 19th Century.



A painting named "**Die Mosestafel**" dating to 1682 which is located in the old church of Steffisburg bears the coats of arms of its Baptist dissident leaders. One of these coats of arms is that of our direct ancestor Peter Farni (middle) ------→ showing also three leaves of fern.



The first known Swiss **Von Farn** coat of arms dates back to 1515 and represents a **Von Farn** lineage of politicians . Nine generations of **Von Farn** families partook in the rule of the city of Biel and the Vallon ------→ de Saint Imier during a period of almost 300 years. This political dynasty started with **Von Farn Hans The First** (1505-1570) and ended with **Von Farn Nicklaus The Second** in 1790. This Von Farn lineage with an identical coat of arms became extinct soon after the French invasion of Switzerland in 1798.



Citizenship rights in a community

The 17th century saw widespread peasant rebellion in addition to the religious disputes which were ongoing. This dragged the rural areas into misery and deprivation and beggars moving from village to village for some scrap food were overwhelming. In order to remedy this situation, the old Regime of Berne set up a system of "Heimatrecht" or "commune of origin" which was a right of citizenship in a community for its permanent residents. In 1676, each town, village and hamlet of canton Bern was ordered to register their permanent residents and thereby give each family name clan living there the right of citizenship. Once this citizenship system was established, it was possible to expel from their locality all unemployed people who did not legally belong there. 185 years later, the 1861 census indicated that Fahrni people who were originally from the village of Fahrni had settled down and were given the status of citizenship rights in the following four villages: Eriz, Unterlangenegg, Steffisburg and Buchholterberg. The four above mentioned communes are located at a distance of not more than 15 km from the village Fahrni. The fact that no Fahrni people have citizenship rights in the village Fahrni itself confirms that the patronymic was adopted by those only who had left their village. Our direct Fahrni lineage has citizenship rights (Heimatrecht) of Eriz and it is to be assumed that our ancestors had left the village of Farne (Fahrni) to settle down in the Eriz valley in the latter part of the 15th century, considering the first wedding document at hand.



Fahrni is still the leading patronymic in the Eriz valley

Genealogical sources

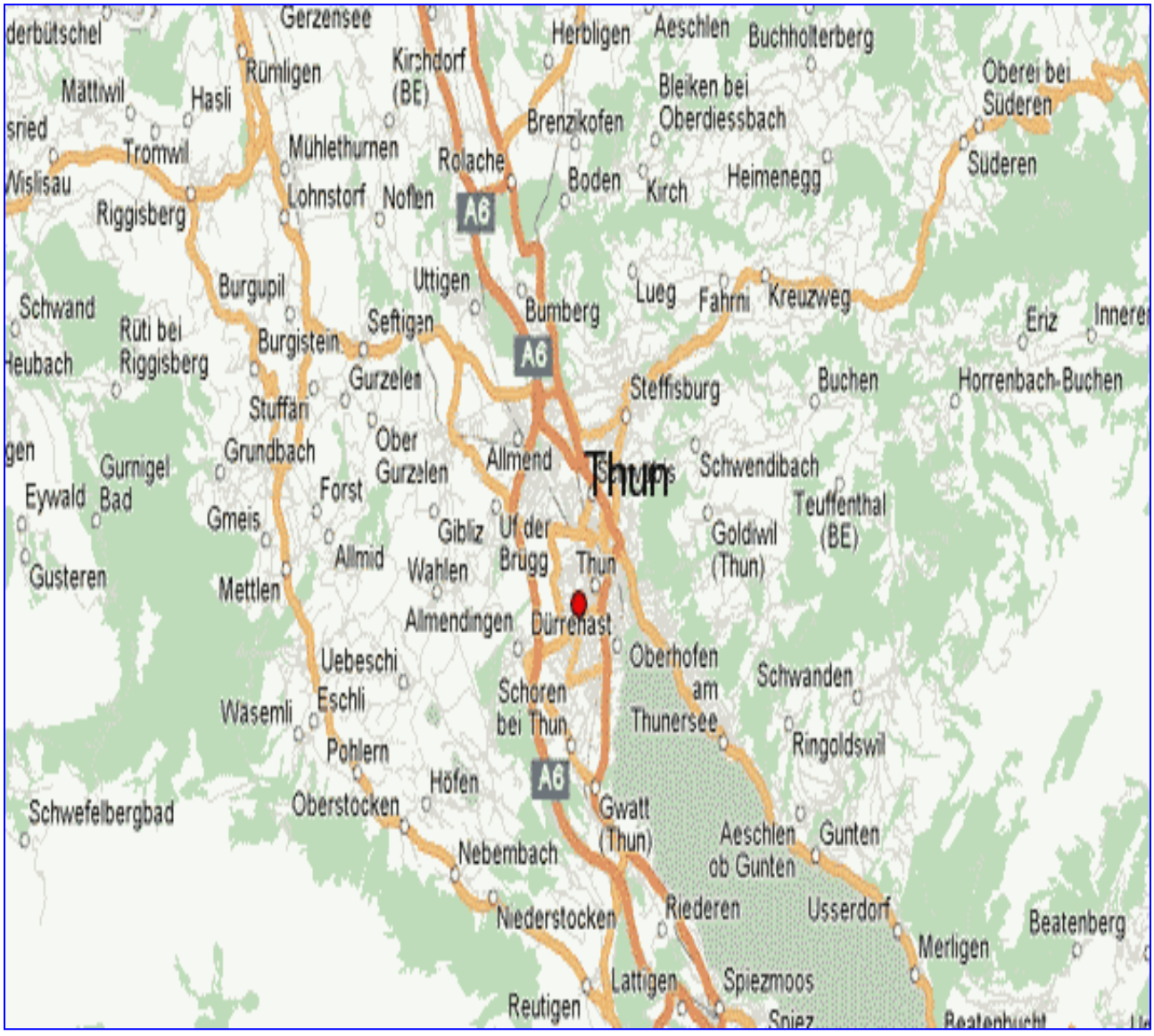
In order to preserve the family's history through a permanent and accurate record, the citation of the source from which the details in this book were obtained is always mentioned. This will enable future family members to fine tune and extend the research. The basic information available to a family historian are the vital records, and the church officials were initially the sole keepers of these three church books (christenings, weddings and burials). These church books were started sometime after the Reformation, in 1550 for weddings and in 1555 for baptisms. Burial registrations started much later, in 1643. Only in the 19th century were these registries taken over by the civilian authorities. With the Swiss system of citizenship rights in a commune, our Fahrni clan members who have the Swiss nationality still have today their christenings, weddings and burials registered in Eriz, wherever they live. This concentration of data on a family in one sole place greatly simplifies the research, although the early records are in Old German writing which is not always easy to decipher. The first recorded generation of Von Farne (now Fahrni) was found in the church documents of Steffisburg, a small locality above Lake Thun in canton Bern. The church book indicates that our first ancestors, namely **Christanus von Farne** and his wife **Barbara Mathysenn**, were living in the Eriz Valley of the Zulg river in early sixteenth century.

Until 1693, the commune of Eriz was included in the Parish jurisdiction of Steffisburg and all Parish Register entries are now available on microfilm. From 1693 onwards, Eriz belongs to the Parish District of Schwarzenegg following the construction of a Church in that locality. The source indication in this document for the three church books is, for example, as follows:
(K1Stbg196) = churchbook 1, of Steffisburg, page 196.
(K13Schw012) = churchbook 13, of Schwarzenegg, page 012.
Valuable insight into those people who share our bloodline ancestors was also obtained by consulting the many inheritance contracts, sales and purchase documents of land, forest and houses, etc, as well as local church tribunal records and military files. As a general guidance, the Mormon book "temple record book of the Fahrni family", recorded from the earliest church registries until 1900 and compiled by Julius Biletter was also taken into account.

The **"Temple Record Book of the Fahrni Family"** is available on microfilm from the Mormon Center Library in Utah, USA. It must be pointed out, however, that all the Julius Biletter data was verified, over a period of many years, with the original sources in the Swiss church books by Mr. Peter Waelti, a professional genealogist. Details of emigrations were obtained from passport applications and other travel documents, passenger list of ships and arrivals at port, as well as the many US Federal population census reports and other documents. As of the year 2000, DNA tests have become widely in use for genealogical research. The DNA Y chromosome is transmitted from father to son to son etc. and is reliable with a variance of not more than 1% per generation. Many DNA tests have enabled us to confirm the paper trail of the lineage of our direct male ancestors, and connected many of Fahrni emigration lines to the USA.

In order to make the family book easy to read, I have included a pedigree chart at the start of each Fahrni generation covered in this book. This family history describes the descendants of a long line of mainly carpenters and cabinet makers who lived in the Berner Oberland region for practically 400 years. As these trades generated good income in those days, our forefathers also owned land and forests and were also farmers, as can be seen in the many inheritance contracts. In an attempt to imagine and draw a picture of the lives of our many bloodline ancestors, I will be trying to illustrate and describe their history in the context of the various aspects of the social, economic and political situation of the time. It is hoped that this family history will contribute to preserve the memory of our ancestors for the generations to come.

There are no dead people in this family book because they were all alive once and their stories are valuable to us. This book is a modest attempt to bring to life and to pay homage to our forefathers by discovering and keeping their stories alive, as you will now be taken on a journey through time that started more than five centuries ago. History unfolds around our ancestors from the Fahrni village to the Eriz valley and further on to Reudlen, to Thun and Zweisimmen to finally be scattered throughout Switzerland and the world.



Map of the Thun region, with the Fahrni village North and Eriz North-East

On pourrait se demander pourquoi remonter si loin dans le temps pour tenter d'arracher au passe' des ancêtres depuis si longtemps disparus ? L'intérêt que je porte a la généalogie, et plus particulièrement à celle de notre lignée, avait pris naissance suite a un héritage d'un lointain parent dont nous ignorions tous l'existence. Pour retrouver les héritiers de ce défunt solitaire, les notables de notre commune d'origine (Eriz) durent entreprendre des recherches généalogiques qui s'étendirent hors de Suisse à l'Allemagne, à la Pologne, au Canada et aux USA. J'ai longtemps circule' en pensée sur ces générations de Fahrni, remontant jusqu'au 16eme siècle, qui durant presque quatre cents ans ont pratiquement tous vécu dans la région de Thoune sans jamais s'y éloigner. Pendant plus de 30 années de recherches, j'ai remue' beaucoup de documents poussiéreux et parfois peu lisibles dans les Archives Fédérales de Berne, ainsi que dans les communes de district. Mes recherches aux USA, au Canada, en Allemagne et en Pologne ont été facilitées par l'aide de cousins et cousines éloignés. Ces recherchent ont suffisamment regorgés de documents notariés d'héritage, de vente et d'achat de biens immobiliers et des inventaires pour permettre de faire sortir de l'ombre ces hommes et ces femmes et leur offrir de vivre ou de revivre dans ce cheminement à rebours.

Pour mesurer le temps et imaginer la vie de nos aïeux, il existe également tous les actes de baptême, de mariage et de décès. En représentant et en décrivant leurs vies, je ne peux m'empêcher de ressentir que si nous les avions connus nous les aurions sans aucun doute respectés et appréciés. Et si j'ai donné une description des principaux membres de chaque génération de nos lignées de Von Farne, Farni, Fahrni, Fahrney et Forney, c'est pour mieux les placer dans l'atmosphère de leur époque et les intégrer aux conditions sociales, politiques et économiques de leur temps. Vous y trouverez des personnages dont le destin a frôlé celui de certains d'entre nous, avec leurs ambitions et leur sens de l'entreprise qui ressemblent étrangement à des membres de générations plus récentes.

Il ne s'agissait que de regarder en arrière et de s'interroger sur les raisons qui ont motivés ces émigrations, et parfois ces retours au pays. C'est peut-être aussi parce que, étant leur descendant, ils m'ont lègue' ces souvenirs que j'ai appris a reconnaître en empruntant, a mon tour, les sillages qu'ils ont laissés. J'ose espérer que ce récit puisse réveiller, pour d'autres, une certaine résonance dans l'intérêt de leurs lointains ancêtres.

L'histoire d'une vie ne doit pas s'oublier et disparaître après seulement deux ou trois générations.

Gottfried Fahrni



FAHRNI COAT OF ARMS

The first school in Eriz

The first mention of a school in Eriz was in 1653, the year of the peasant war. A teacher was hired and paid for by the community to teach the children, who were mostly boys. Classes were held exclusively during the Winter months, but the heavy snow and distances to the school were prohibitory for the many living on the edge of Eriz valley. The single class, teaching for all ages, took place in a room located in a farmhouse. Only three subjects were taught, namely 1) read and write, 2) some basic calculus and 3) learning by heart of the catechism and sing the Psalms. After three years of sporadic school attendance, the students could write their name, decipher some simple reading, understand the numbers and value of money, which would help them go through their future life as farmers. Obviously, the wealthier farmers would arrange for private lessons for their children, who would be tutored at home by a wandering teacher.

New church in Schwarzenegg

In 1693, a new church was built in Schwarzenegg which is located between the Farni and Eriz villages. The official reason for constructing a new church was to make the Sunday attendance of the sermon more accessible to the inhabitants of the Eriz valley. The walking distance down to Schwarzenegg was about 8 km., instead of the 18 km to the old and only church in Steffisburg. But there was another reason for building a church closer to the farming community living in the Zulg valley of Eriz. It was for the clergy and the Bernese authorities to obtain a better control over the many disturbing Anabaptists living in the remote areas of Eriz. Reliable documents indicate that the decision to build a new church in the village of Schwarzenegg was instigated by the Bernese overlords. Acting as the long arm of Bern, the church officials understandably gave their approval for this new church.

GENERATION 1

DNA Haplogroup E1b1b1a2

During the early part of the 16th century our Fahrni ancestors migrated from their native village of Farne (later known as Farni and Fahrni) to the nearby Eriz valley. As family names were not yet in use at that time, the Eriz inhabitants identified the newcomers as "von Farne" (coming from the village of Farne), hence the origins of our patronymic. Until 1693, the villages of Farni and Eriz belonged to the Parish jurisdiction of Steffisburg, near Thun, canton Bern in Switzerland. With the construction of an additional church in nearby Schwarzenegg, in 1693, this became the parish where all Farni / Fahrni baptisms and weddings and burials were registered.

Steffisburg Church books:

~ birth / baptism (1555 to 1693)
oo wedding (1550 to 1693)
T. death / burial (1643 to 1693)
Schwarzenegg church books (as of 1693)

Genealogical sources:

Swiss church books
Other vital statistics and contracts
Various researches in Europe and USA
Julius Billeter's Temple Record Fahrni book
20 years contribution by Swiss genealogist
Peter Walti. DNA results comparisons.

Unknown ancestors from Farne

Niklaus (Clauwi) von Farne Maria
~ Abt 1526 in the village of Waldtman
Eriz, Steffisburg, **oo**<-1557 ~ 1528
(Assumed first generation born in Eriz)

Peter von Farne Anna Joder ~<--1537
~ Abt 1528 Eriz **oo** 5 Apr.1551 Steffisburg
(Assumed first generation born in Eriz)

Christanus von Farne **Barbara Mathysenn**
~ Abt 1532 in Eriz, ~ Abt 1537
church district of **oo** Abt 1554
Steffisburg, Switzerland.
(Assumed first generation born in Eriz)
T 1561 --> **T** 1561-->

Hans von Farne Benedikta Meyteler (Meyeler)
~ Abt 1531 Eriz ~ Abt 1536
oo 3 May 1557 Steffisburg
(Assumed first generation born in Eriz)

Ulrich von Farne 1) Barbara Teuscher
~ Abt 1534 Eriz **oo** 25 Jun.1558 Steff.
2) Christina Winteregg
oo 13 Jan.1566 Stef.
(Assumed first generation born in Eriz)

Michael von Farne
~ Abt 1535 Eriz, Steffisburg

Steffan von Farne Anna Schilt
~ Abt 1539 Eriz ~ Abt 1551
(Assumed first generation born in Eriz)

Fahrne Village

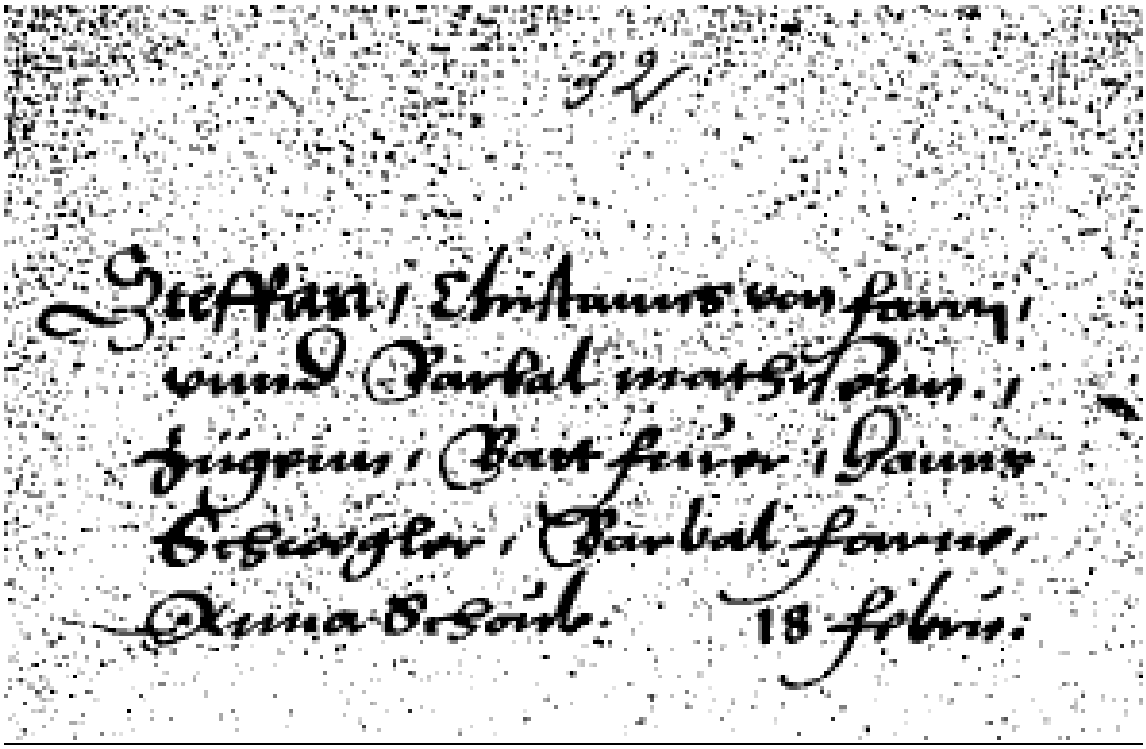
Generation One

Christanus von Farne is **The First** known ancestor of our family lineage. It is assumed that Christanus was the first or second generation of **von Farne** living in the Eriz valley originating from the nearby village of Farne/Fahrni. He married with Barbel (Barbara) Mathysenn in around 1554 and resided in the Eriz valley. Four confirmed children are known to have been born from that union, namely Christina, Steffan who died soon after birth, and the second Steffan who carried on the family line. No birth registration is available on the first son Peter as he was born before 1555, the starting year of the church book. Based on the estimated birth date of their first child, it is assumed that Christanus von Farne was born in about 1532 and his wife Barbara Mathysenn, in around or before 1537. Christanus and Barbara are named as parents in the baptismal registrations of their children and especially in the 18 February 1560 entry for their son Steffan in the church book of Steffisburg (K1Stbg32). The death dates of Christanus and Barbel are not known as the burial church books of Steffisburg started in 1643 only.

Evidence is available that our **Christanus von Farne "The First"** had a brother named **Ully(Ulrich) von Farne** who married in second wedding a Christina Winteregg on 13th January 1566. This Christina Winteregg was the godmother of the last child of Stephan & Barbara Dummermuth in generation 3, namely Barbara Farni, when she was christened on 7th September 1606. Twenty seven years earlier, on 15th April 1579, this same Christina Winteregg was also the godmother of a Christina Farni (generation 3), the daughter of Peter von Farne and Margaret Feller. The Julius Billeter Fahrni reference study also mentions the above and shows that Christina had a brother named Johann born on 19th May 1581. As godmothers and godfathers were generally blood related to the baptized, it is concluded that this **Peter von Farne** was a fourth child of Christanus The First.

Copies of the birth, wedding and burial registrations in the church books are included with all direct ancestors. As per custom in the region at the time, the pastors would often write the months in the farming tradition as below:

JAN=Winter month, FEB=Mud month, MAR=Spring month, APR=Easter, MAY=Joy month, JUN=Plough month, JUL=Hay month, AUG=Harvest, SEP=Wind, OCT=Vintage month, NOV=Autumn, DEC=Holy month.



Baptism of Steffan von Farne, son of Christanus von Farne and Barbara Mathysenn, on 18 Feb.1560 (K1Stbg32).

The impact of the Reformation

It is to be assumed that, following the introduction of the Reformed Christian doctrine in 1528, Christanus and Barbara von Farne were of the first generation to have been taught the Protestant faith. And it should be possible to imagine the only minor impact on the lifestyle of our mostly illiterate ancestors with this change. As Sunday church attendance was compulsory for at least one household member, the first change they probably saw when entering the church hall was that all previously catholic frescoes were painted over and the statues and relics depicting saints and biblical figures were removed. Instead of Mass, a Memorial Service was performed by Herr Pfarrer, the pastor who probably was their Herr Priester previously. But in the eyes of most inhabitants not much had changed, except for the abolition of some customs and usages such as the veneration of the Saints. However, a "Chorgericht", which is a Tribunal of Morality, was set up in all Districts whose main functions were to regulate marriages and divorces and to punish adultery and prostitution. This tribunal was composed of two pastors and four municipal councilors.

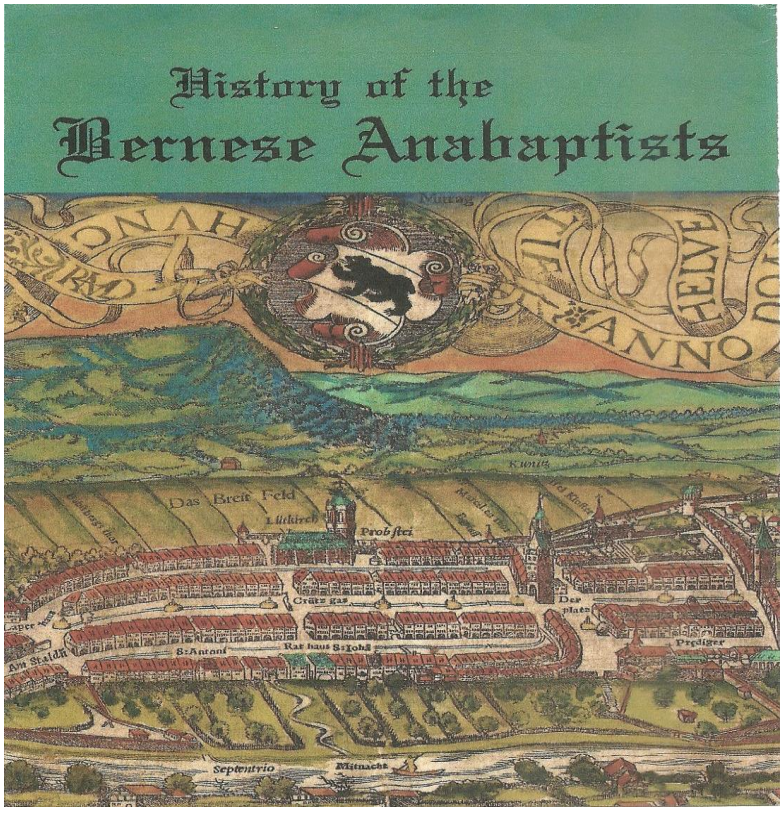
The Sunday sermons were held in Steffisburg, which had the only church in the region; for the inhabitants of the Fahrni village, this represented about 10 km. walking each way. This walking on rough paths may have been acceptable in summer for a fit person, but the winter storms and heavy snow would definitely have made such a trip stressful. Eriz is also known as the valley of the Zulg River and is still further away from Steffisburg. The zigzag pathways and trenches at the bottom of the valley with the numerous crossings over the river certainly made the expedition trying and dangerous at all times. The bridges were limited to two tree trunks tied together and thrown across the river and when the waters were high the only way to walk was on the slopes over rocks and fallen trees. It should be possible to imagine the additional difficulty in carrying a new born child for baptism during winter over mount and rock in snow that was one meter deep, or attending a wedding ceremony. And the task was much worse still when carrying a deceased person on a 15 km. track downstream the Zulg River for burial in the Steffisburg cemetery.

The Anabaptists versus the Reformation

In the beginning of the 16th Century began the rise of a rebellion movement and a contest against the priestly tyranny of the catholic church. People had no liberty of thought and the clergy was accused of leading immoral lives, lax and unfaithful behaviors and disrespect towards the Testament. This Reformation movement first started in the South German States led by Martin Luther, and later spread to Zurich with Ulrich Zwingli and to Geneva with Jean Calvin. Ulrich Zwingli brought about the change in the German speaking parts of Switzerland, by denouncing the Church abuses such as accepting money from the people for the repenting of sins and divine worship. The clergy drifted so far as to accept money for the purchase of indulgences in favor of the dead. Many believed that the 1519 Plague which decimated one third of the population was God's punishment for these sins. Zwingli also had political objectives and used the growing opposition to the well established business of sending young men to foreign wars as mercenaries, which was considered agaionst the holly book.

The printing press was only just coming of age and this greatly helped the dissemination of the reformed literature to the ruling classes across Europe. The Protestant Reformation was inaugurated in Bern by a mandate dated February 7, 1528, thus establishing the Protestant Faith as the official and compulsory religion of the city of Bern and its territories. As becoming the new State Religion, it became in its turn totalitarian. Attempts to implement the reforms of the new church were made with all sorts of legislation, mostly directed at the population and not at the clergy. Gambling was proscribed; drinking to one's health was punished by a fine; drunkenness by imprisonment; dancing was proscribed on communion days, just to mention a few. But enforcement was lax and these new regulations accomplished little and sin persisted in low and high places. And for those who wanted to live a holy and religious life according to the Testament, the Reformation did not go far enough. In fact, the Reformation merely replaced a repressive catholic monopoly by a repressive protestant one. And many considered the reforms fell short of what was originally intended and refused to attend the new state church services.

The splinter groups that were all preaching, with some variations, for a much stricter adherence to the Holy Book were the Anabaptists, Baptists,(Amish, Mennonites), etc. with strong roots in the countryside of Bern, Zurich, St Gallen, as well as in Holland and Southern Germany. Originally, they were called the "Taufern" (Baptist), or "Wiedertaufern", (Anabaptist), in canton Bern, the wellspring of this secession movement. The Swiss Baptists set up their own church which they wanted free of State interference. They refused to baptize their children until they were adults and refused to give their oath of allegiance to the "Landvogt", the all powerful regional representative of the masters of Bern. They also refused to enlist into the army, to bear arms and to partake in wars. The Baptists' quest for an earnest Christian life resulted in bloody persecutions and death for its leaders. History reveals that many "Taufers" were first dispossessed and imprisoned, then tortured and often burned on the stake or simply drowned in the river. The lucky ones were exiled or fled to the Palatinate in Southern Germany, and to the Principality of Salm and also to Moselle in Lorraine, France. Later, people became aware of the freedom of religion existing in the distant land of America and many sailed to Pennsylvania to start a new life.



Birth of the Swiss Nation

It would be wise not to take too literally the legendary episodes depicting the beginnings and birth of the Swiss nation. The Swiss Federal Charter with the attributed official date of 1291, the Wilhelm Tell apple arbalest shot legend of 1307 as well as the Rutli Oath of the same year were all written by historians several hundred years after the events supposedly took place. No primary sources exist on these happenings; it is obvious that the Federal Charter was antedated. However, our leaders and intellectuals of the 16th Century felt that these legends were essential for the building of a national identity and the strengthening of patriotism that proved to be of decisive importance during the successive wars in Europe. The 1st of August was chosen as the National Day which - by the way - only started to be celebrated officially as of 1891, with the 600th anniversary of the foundation of Switzerland.

Most nations do have a National Day which often relates to liberation from some foreign or local oppressors, but the Swiss celebration refers to the symbol of its direct dependence from the German Roman Empire. Our Waldstaetten (forest states) people of the Uri, Schwyz and Unterwald valleys certainly accepted the feudal social order in place in 13th century Europe. But they clearly resented the suzerainty and interference of the Habsburg regional overlords. Since the year 962, the Central European territories were integrated into the Holy Roman Empire. In the early 12th century, the Waldstaetten leaders of the three valleys succeeded in purchasing the special status of "Free Imperial State" granting direct dependence from the faraway Emperor, thus freeing themselves from the meddling by the nearby Dukes of Habsburg. But this special status was soon threatened by the local Habsburgs. The birth of the Swiss nation is, therefore, the result of a mutual defense agreement between the three Waldstaetten states to safeguard their status of Imperial privileges and their direct dependence from the German Roman Emperor. This Waldstaetten Pact - now better known as the Federal Charter of 1291 - had as main purpose to maintain their reporting directly to the Emperor in Vienna and also to safeguard their self-rule primarily in justice and fiscal matters and the sovereignty over their ancestral customs.

Surprisingly, despite the vicissitudes of history that followed, nobody could have predicted the longevity and expansion of this Swiss alliance. The three forest states "Waldstaetten" accepted other city states to join the Union, namely Luzern in 1332, Zurich in 1351, Glaris and Zug in 1352 and Bern in 1353 which then consisted as the Old Confederacy as of that date. This Swiss alliance of 8 cantons remained unchanged for 128 years or five generations, when other city states adhered to this defense pact to reach 13 cantons in 1513. All these states that joined the future Confederation of Switzerland had, as their basic aim, the preservation of the privilege to run their own affairs. In 1499, the Swiss Alliance was victorious in the Schwabian League war and as a result acquired the de facto independence within the Holy Roman Empire. Much later, the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia recognized Switzerland's independence and neutrality by the European nations. Other city states joined the Swiss Confederation as of 1803.

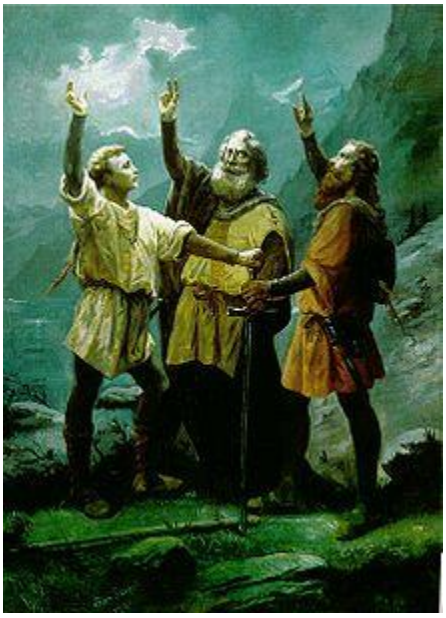
Taking a look further back into history, during the late Iron Age of 500 BC the territory of central Europe ranging from the Alps to the Rhine river plateau was settled by a tribal group with Celtic and Germanic roots called the "Helvetii". The Swiss plateau was named after these occupants and was known as "Helvetia" which much later became the personification of the country as "Confederation Helvetica".

The best known historical reference to the Helvetians was recorded by Julius Caesar himself on the Battle of Bibracte of 58 BC, when the Roman army defeated the Helvetii tribal group, leading to their gradual integration into the Roman Empire for the next five centuries. By that time, the mountain passes through the Swiss Alps connecting Italy to Gaul and Germania were of vital importance to the Roman Empire. Much later, in the Middle Ages, this geographical region and the same mountain passes remained of strategic importance and played a major role for the exchange of goods between both sides of the Alps.

DESCENDENTS OF VON FARNE, FARNI, FAHRNI



Wilhelm Tell



Oath of Rutli

Federal Charter of 1291



The Feudal system

The early Feudal structure of government in Central Europe came into effect in around 1000 AD, as a result of the breaking up of the Western Francs Empire. For many centuries, the political order was a blending of the traditions of the Roman Empire and the Catholic Church. Europe consisted of a patchwork of cities, duchies, counties and bishoprics and these were ruled by the Holy Roman Emperor who, however, never achieved central control. The Empire was ruled through a system that was a pyramidal delegation of governance through a hierarchical structure with a distinct "Duties and Rewards" system as shown below:

The Emperor of the Germanic Roman Empire was owner of all the land. He leased part of it to the powerful dynasties such as the Dukes of Hohenstaufen, Dukes of Zaehringen, Dukes of Kyburg and the Dukes of Habsburg as well as to the Church and to the Monasteries.

The Dukes & Bishops had full control in governing their respective territories for collecting taxes etc., and in return, providing soldiers and money to the Emperor. They also leased part of their land to the under-tenants, usually Knights.

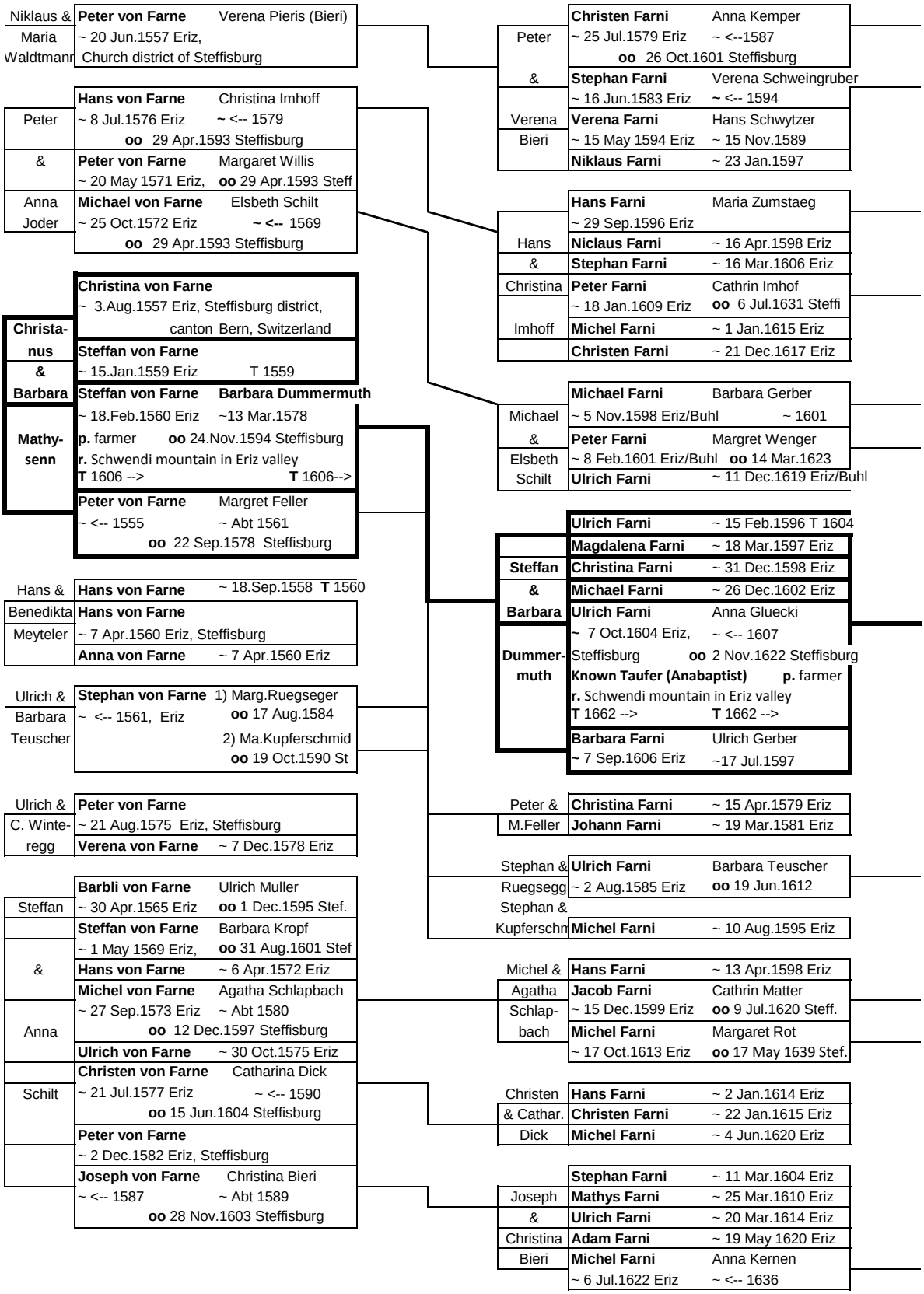
The Knights governed their smaller territories and collected taxes and provided military protection to the Dukes and Bishops. In their turn, the Knights granted plots of land to the peasants and serfs.

The Peasants & Serfs worked the land, paid taxes, provided labor and food to the Knights and were also enlisted as soldiers during wars. In return, the Knights would protect the peasants and serfs against invasions.

The Free Imperial Cities were exceptions to the above structure, as by special grant they were paying taxes directly to the Holy Roman Emperor and, as a result, were owing no allegiance to the local dukes or bishops.

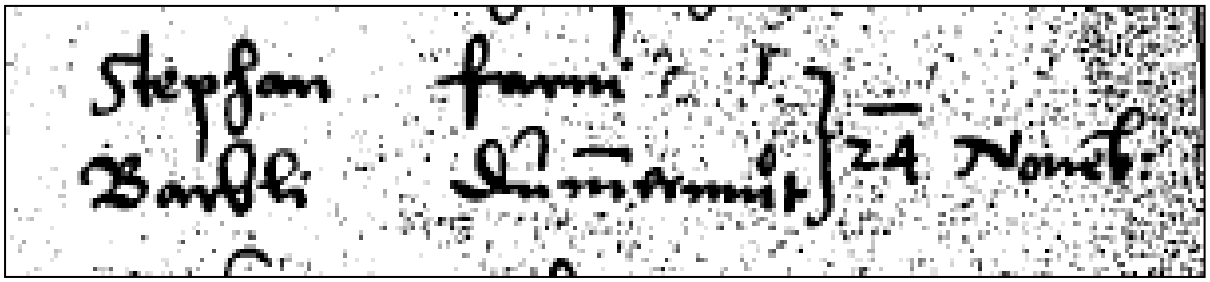
GENERATION 2

GENERATION 3



Generation 2

Steffan von Farne is the confirmed male child of Christanus the First that carried forward our lineage. He was born in Eriz and baptized on the 18th February 1560 (K1Stbg32) in the District church of Steffisburg. He was 34 years old when he married Barbara Dummermuth in Steffisburg, on 24th November 1594 (K1Stbg196), and the church book entries indicate that this was his first marriage. The wedding document indicates that Barbara Dummermuth was baptized on 13th March 1578, but no such trace exists in Steffisburg which means that she came from outside of the district of Steffisburg. Steffan and Barbara had a total of six children registered in Steffisburg, of whom Ulrich (The Anabaptist) carried forward our bloodline. Their last known child was born in 1606 but the parents' death dates are not available as the burial church books started only in 1643. We are in possession of a sales document dated 28th August 1662 (see generation 3), which makes reference to an earlier ownership document of land and property dated 16th August 1592. This document indicates that, in 1592, Steffan purchased the Schwendi mountain and the Eckweid pastureland. At the time of Steffan's death, the above properties were inherited by his surviving children, whose details will be given under generation 3.



Wedding of Steffan von Farne and
Barbara Dummermuth on 24 Nov.1594
(K1Stbg196).

Lifestyle in the Steffisburg region

In order to make a depiction of what life was really like in the 16th century, it is necessary to place each generation in the historical, political and social context of their time. As the cultural and technological developments would directly impact on the lifestyle of our ancestors, it is also paramount to understand the geographical aspect of the area known as the Eriz valley.

The Eriz of old days was not several agglomerations of houses as it is today, but rather an area inhabited by approximately 300 people living in not more than 40 isolated farmhouses. These were scattered, far and wide, throughout the valley and mostly interconnected by a network of pathways. The Eriz valley, with its Zulg River, was split by the sunny hillside and the shady hillside. It had a total surface of about 2000 hectares, ranging between 800 and 2000 meters in altitude. More than half of Eriz commune was covered with forests, explaining their use of a pine tree for their Coat of Arms.

A typical mountain house of the early 16th century would have, on the ground floor, the stables and the granary with a combined cooking, living and dining room to accommodate the family. There was always a large kettle hanging above the hearth containing the traditional soup. A cellar, underground, was a must to preserve the food and the seeds. Usually, there were two bedrooms on the upper floor, next to the hayloft above the stables for warmth in winter; one for the parents and small children and the second for the older children and the grandparents. A bed mattress was simply a thick layer of hay covered with a coarse piece of flax material. As a bed cover, they used a large and heavy sack made of flax filled with either hay or wool from their lambs. For food, they relied almost entirely on homemade produce, the main staples being bread, milk, butter, meat, cheese, fruits and vegetables. The soup bowls and eating dishes were hand made of wood.

Literacy was restricted to the clergy and a few wealthy landowners in those days. The introduction of the first school in Eriz would not occur until 1653. Therefore, education was learning from the parents and grand parents about traditions and customs; what was right and what was forbidden.

From the youngest age, children would memorize the names of the local birds, the various seasonal flowers and animals. Everybody could distinguish a Pine from a Larch tree, a Walnut from a Chestnut tree, an Apple from a Pear tree. Small girls would be close to their mother and older sisters and would be taught matters of the house. From a very early age, boys would give a helping hand to their father and be taught the farming trade. In the evenings, children would be listening to stories of old times told by the adults of the house. Occasionally for entertainment, they would hear of ghost stories as superstition was strong. Bedtime was early as the price of candles was high and they provided only a flicker of light. The water was captured from natural sources, which were abundant with the melting of snow during spring and summer in this mountainous region. The collection of rain water from the roofs was used for animal needs and irrigation of the garden and nearby fields. During the long winters when everything was frozen, the only way to obtain drinking and cooking water was to melt the snow in the large cooking pan.

These family units survived basically from subsistence farming, since at that time vegetables and fruits came solely from one's own garden and to a lesser extent from the surrounding land. Generally, these mountain farmers - with their structure for self-reliance - were better nourished than the people living in the lowlands of Seeland and Emmental. Most family units had more or less enough to eat and had a shelter which, though it fell short of today's requirements, was adequate for that time. The few cows and goats would provide for the milk and butter and the chicken would give the eggs. Each family made their own bread from wheat and barley grown on their patch of land nearby. The potato was just about to be introduced in Europe from Latin America, but became the main food staple and field crop only in the following century. Occasionally, meat was provided from hunting in the nearby forests. For the rare festive celebrations, one would kill a few hens or ducks or rabbits reared at the back of the house. At the rear of the farmhouse was also a work shed where the wood was stored to dry for cooking and for winter heating.

Our mountain people lived in harmony with the seasons. The spring months brought the melting of the snow together with the thawing of the soil, permitting the sowing of wheat and the burgeoning of the first flowers such as the snowdrops and jonquils, followed by the primroses and the bluebells.

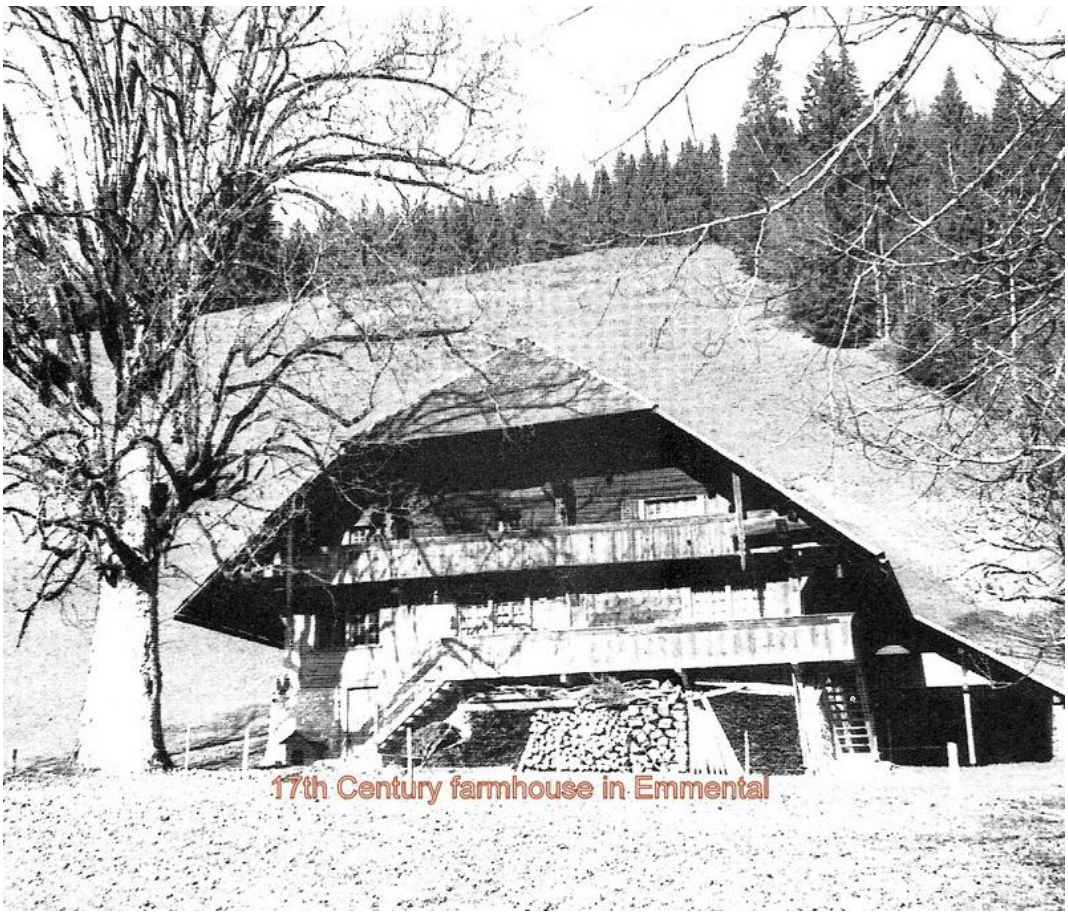
The short summer would yield the fruits and vegetables and the ripening of the crops and the harvesting of hay, the main animal feed for the winter. Also in summer, the animals would be taken to pastures in higher grounds, above the pine trees, where the scented fragrance of sturdy mountain shrubs and plants were abundant. Soon after, the fields would settle down for the long winter rest; the winter lasting four months or more, with the snow piling up over two meters high, remaining frozen and shutting down all outdoor activities. Through ancestral experience, they knew the edible herbs, wild fruits and berries as well as mushrooms found in the surrounding forests. These were dried or preserved in vinegar to survive the cold period. In autumn, a pig would be killed and part of the meat would be salted and preserved in large barrels in the underground cellar; the other part was dried and smoked over the cooking stove.

Wood was collected from the nearby forest for cooking and to keep warm during the winter months, when the cold and tempestuous winds would be roaring down the valley. Most farmers would own at least one donkey, a few cows, several pigs and sometimes also some goats and sheep. Usually, clothes were made by the female family members and each house had a spinning wheel. Occasionally, one gifted lady with more taste than others and skill with her needle would specialize and saw garments for their neighbours' weddings or other celebrations. Some men would specialize and become craftsmen in either woodwork such as cabinet making and carpentry; others in shoemaking or metalwork. All made cheese, the products of which was sold or bartered. Some were more successful than others and gradually purchased more land and forest and became wealthier than their peers.

The Archives of Bern mention Eriz for the first time in 1320 and the valley was then ruled by the Kyburg Dynasty. In 1384, the Eriz valley and surrounding regions were taken over by the town of Bern. It is most likely that our first known ancestors had a lifestyle as described above and lived in a house similar to the one shown hereafter.



A view to the striking mountain range encircling the pre-Alpine landscape of Eriz valley.


17th Century farmhouse in Emmental

I believe it appropriate to say a few words about the medical care and health situation of the population that existed in 16 & 17th Century Europe, more particularly in the Swiss mountains. There is no doubt that Hippocrates, the father of Western Medicine, would have turned himself in his tomb had he witnessed the deplorable state of 17th century medicine. Having professed a logical art of medicine in Classical Greece almost 2000 years earlier, Hippocrates' teaching and that of his disciples was practically lost during the Dark Ages, following the downfall of the Roman Empire. In fact, the Dark Ages saw Europe sink back to technologies that were far more primitive than those used during the preceding millennium. Advancement in medicine was stalled and regressed for a long period. The medical science was only mildly and gradually recovering during 12th Century Renaissance through translations from Greek texts into Latin. From then on, medical schools were painstakingly set up in major European capitals but such knowledge most certainly did not reach our ancestors dwelling up in the Swiss mountains for a long time to come.

It is indeed difficult to comprehend that during these times, most people in the European countryside had very little knowledge of infectious diseases and the existence of bacteria and viruses. The archaic belief that illness had a divine origin and that an accident or a disease was punishment by the Gods, and that insanity was due to possession of the devil, was still very much anchored in the minds of the population. There was also a firm belief that illness was caused through witchcraft and much of "folk medicine" was based on magic and mysticism. In the year 1600 alone, over 70 people (mostly women) were burned to death on the stake in canton Bern accused of sorcery. Bloodletting - one of the oldest medical practices used by the ancient Mesopotamians and the Mayans - was still the treatment of choice for a wide variety of ailments. This common practice of bloodletting was applied to practically all diseases "to let the disease out of the body" until it was finally established to cause harm in patients through weakening of the body and acceleration of infections. Up to the end of 19th Century, babies were all delivered at home by a wise woman or by a neighbor until the more qualified help of a midwife was available in 20th Century.

A childbearing woman knew she had to expect the loss of several of her babies and risk her own life in one of fifteen births. It was therefore no surprise that infant mortality was extremely high and a mother dying at childbirth was a common occurrence. There was also a relatively high incidence of women suffering from goiter (enlargement of the thyroid gland) mainly due to iodine deficiency. Acute appendicitis would be a fatal condition in most cases. Incidences of deadly smallpox or typhoid fevers were not uncommon until vaccines were introduced in the early 20th century. It is hard to envision the tragic and calamitous effects of a Polio epidemic where the surviving children were badly crippled for life. Besides the traditional healing methods, there were no preventive measures for infectious diseases such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, tuberculosis, etc. There was no diagnosis for cause of death. Only the pastor would write his own conclusion in the church book on what might have to be blamed for the loss of life. Surgery was unheard of and when anesthetics were discovered, pious people considered them an attempt to evade the will of God. It would take several more centuries until the discovery of antibiotics and penicillin to treat diseases caused by bacteria. No mention is made here about open injury, as loss of blood and infection was a terminal matter since the techniques of blood transfusion were unknown. It is, however, a fact that our mountain people were more or less spared from the plague epidemics which occurred mainly in overpopulated and insalubrious urban areas. And cardio-vascular lesions were probably unheard of as our ancestors were generally physically active and had no opportunity for eating too much fatty foods.

Survival of the fittest was certainly a real fact of existence then. Average life expectancy in Europe temporarily declined from about 40 years in 16th century to about 33 years in early 17th Century. This decline was due to a strong population growth in the urban areas which increased the exposure and vulnerability of people to environmental hazards such as infectious diseases. This deterioration of the health environment in insalubrious towns, with no sewage and refuse systems, was the main cause for the rise of the mortality rate. It is certain that our ancestors lived a healthier and more fit lifestyle in their family farming houses up in the mountains than their counterparts in overcrowded urban areas.

But the rate of infant and child mortality was very high, both in the countryside and in town. Often such deaths were not even reported to the church officials. The table below shows the lifespan of our direct Von Farne, Farni and Fahrni forefathers.

	Birth	Death	Lifespan				
Christanus	1537 – 1561 →		**24** +	**Barbara**	1537 – 1561 →		**24** +
Steffan	1560 – 1606 →		**46** +	**Barbara**	1578 - 1606 →		**28** +
Ulrich	1604 – 1662 →		**58** +	**Anna**	1607 - 1662 →		**55** +
Peter	1640 – 1678 →		**38** +	**Barbara**	1637 - 1686 →		**49** +
Hans	1671 – 1754		**83**	**Anna**	1688 – 1728 →		**40** +
Christen	1718 – 1785		**67**	**Katharina**	1725 – 1769		**44**
Peter	1764 – 1816		**52**	**Magdalena**	1769 - 1792		**23**
Christen	1791 – 1841		**50**	**Magdalena**	1807 – 1845		**38**
Johannes	1841 – 1914		**73**	**Anna**	1835 – 1914		**79**
Gottfried	1876 – 1955		**79**	**Hedwiga**	1881 - 1968		**87**
Karl-Fritz	1919 – 1950		**31**	**Klara**	1920 - 2016		**96**

The age of the first two generations cannot be determined as burial registries started in 1643 only. For generations three and four, death certificates could not be found due to the Peasant War.



Lifestyle in 16th Century Europe

Far away from our Swiss mountains where a comparatively simple and often difficult way of life prevailed, the Duchy of Venice was still Europe's power center with its dominant Mediterranean seaport, controlling the commerce between East and West. Most goods originating from China were transited in Venice from where they were transported overland across the Swiss Alps, through the Gothard pass, to mainly Germany and France. The control of the trading routes to and from the Far East by Venice, but also by Florence, generated unprecedented economic prosperity. This wealth contributed to the beginning of an intense renaissance activity in the arts, science and exploration.

Outstanding painters were emerging in 16th century, but I may be entering onto contentious grounds by mentioning just some. The culmination of Italian artistic achievements was thanks to Michelangelo with his painting of the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. Still today, he is considered as the greatest painter of all time and it is difficult to imagine for an ordinary person how this huge fresco could possibly have been achieved; but Michelangelo was a genius and, in addition, his Statue of David is a world renown work of art of the Renaissance. Leonard de Vinci's Mona Lisa is arguably the most famous painting of the world. Albrecht Durer brought a similar level of artistic innovation in Germany. Others like Raphael, Titan, El Greco, to mention just a few, produced masterpieces that enormously contributed to the art of painting.

The world of music was still at a stage where composers were sponsored mostly by the catholic and reformed churches or by kings. They were, above all, church composers and given contracts to compose choir music for masses and lamentations which were sung in Latin by the choir. The great composers emerged more than a century later.

In literature, it stands to reason to start with William Shakespeare who is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language with his tragedies like Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear and Othello. Spanish Miguel de Servantes' Don Quixote remains a classic of western literature and is considered the first modern work of fiction.

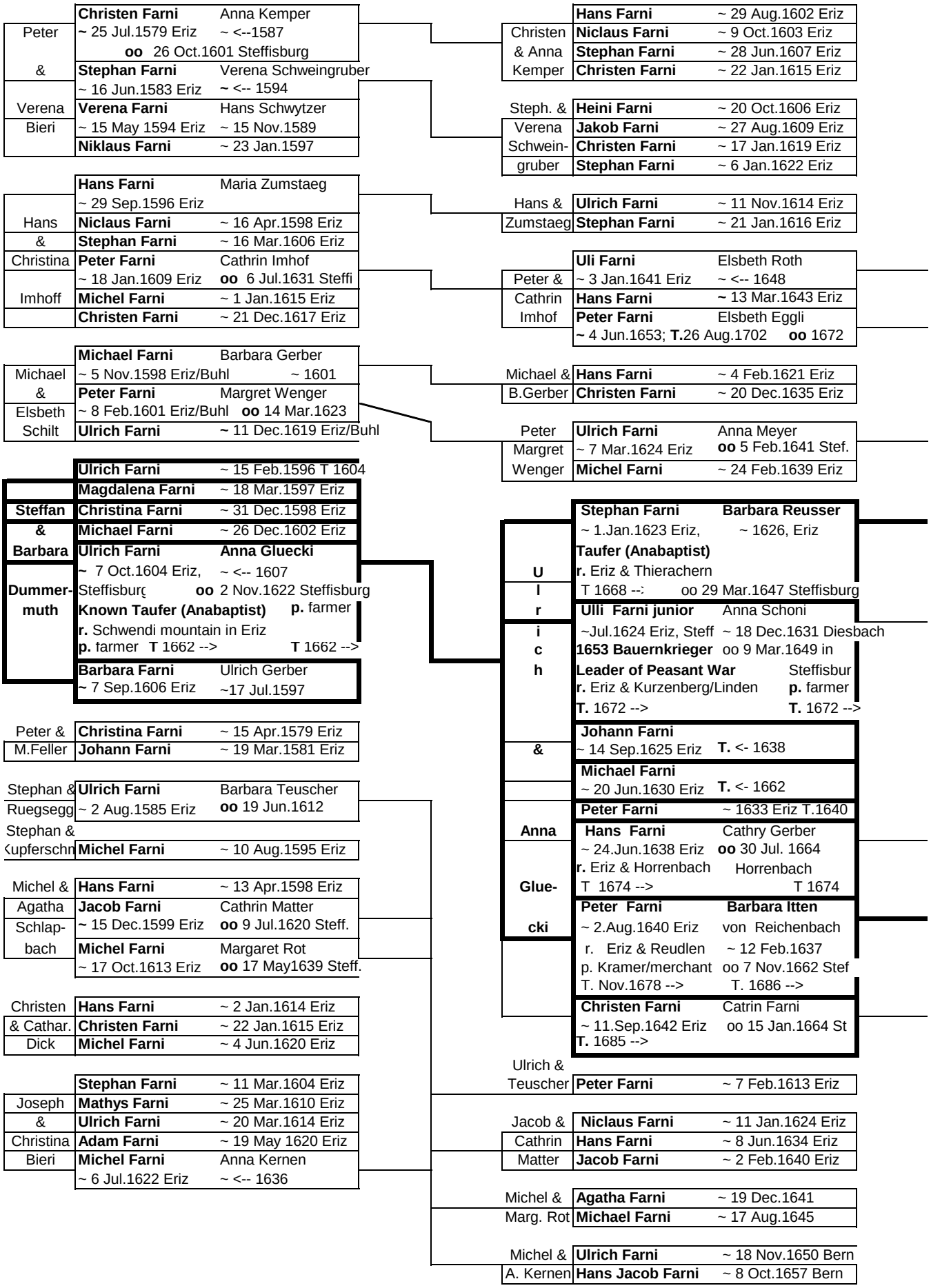
As far as science and astrology is concerned, Polish Nicolaus Copernicus, one of the most famous names in the history of science, was the first to claim, in 1543, that our sun was at the center of the solar system and that earth and the other planets revolved around the sun. Italian astronomer Galileo is regarded as the father of modern physics and astronomy. German astronomer Johann Keppler discovered the laws of planetary motion. And towards the end of 15th century, German Johannes Gutenberg introduced the printing press to Europe which made possible the distribution of books on a wider scale and much cheaper than before, playing a key role in the development of the Renaissance period.

As for navigation, until the 15th century sailors pretty much navigated along the coastlines. Major improvements in ocean-worthy ship building and the technological developments such as the magnetic compass and mapmaking soon made sailing across the empty oceans possible. Portugal became the first major maritime power and leader of oceanic explorations, opening the sea routes down the West Coast of Africa and later around the continent to India. In 1524, Portuguese Vasco de Gama was appointed Viceroy of India. Approximately during the same period, Italian Christopho Columbus led a Spanish fleet that sailed across the Atlantic to the New World which made Europeans aware of the American continent. Spain colonized a large part of what is now known as Latin America. The Aztec Empire of Mexico was conquered in 1521 and 50 years later the Inca Empire, incorporating a large part of today's Bolivia, Argentina, Chile and Colombia, was also taken over by Spain. Soon, the English, French and Dutch fleets would follow suite in their colonization drive. Much earlier, the Mayans, Aztecs and Incas had ruthlessly imposed their empires on large parts of the continent; it was therefore not surprising that the more powerful Europeans would also, in turn, establish their empire on the New World. The Amerindians could not put up much resistance to the invaders because of a sudden collapse of their populations. The long-isolated people of the Americas lacked resistance to the infectious diseases brought along by the Europeans, such as smallpox and typhus.

In 1598, the French King issued the "Edit de Nantes" giving some religious freedom to the Protestants/Huguenots.

GENERATION 3

GENERATION 4

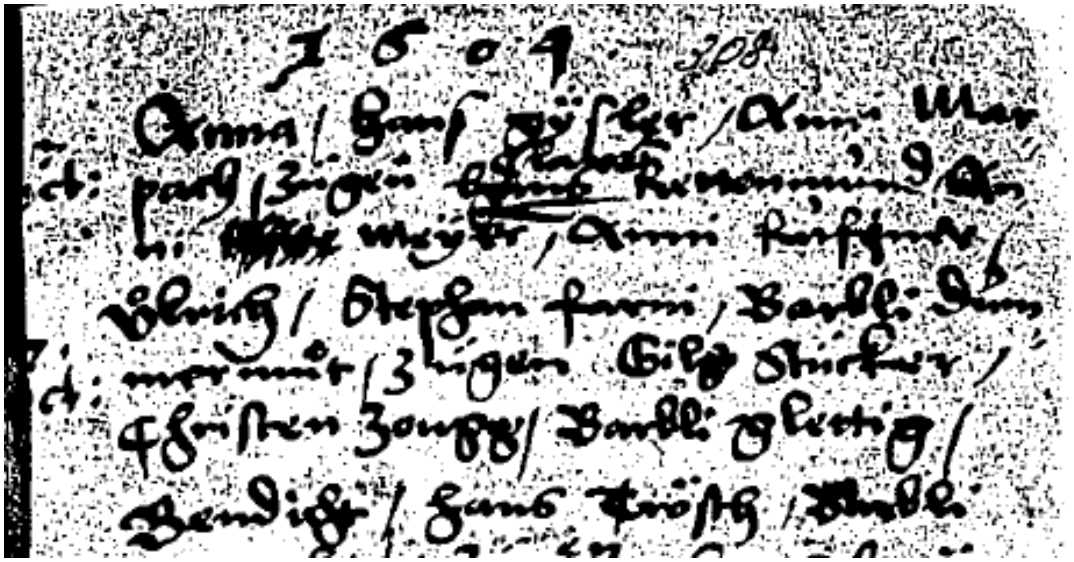


Generation 3

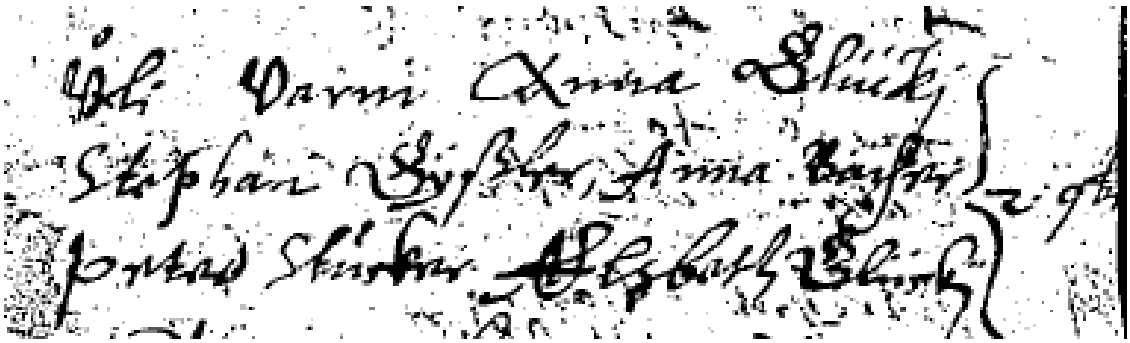
Ulrich Farni (notice the change of spelling from "**von Farne"** to **Farni by the pastor)** was born in Eriz and baptized on 15 February 1596 (K1Stbg257). We can conclude that Ulrich died as a child because a second Ulrich was baptized later in the family. **Magdalena** (Madleni) **Farni** was the second child and christened on the 18th March 1597 (K1Stbg263). No trace of a marriage of Magdalena was found in the Steffisburg church books between 1611 and 1640; she might have moved out of the District to get married elsewhere.
Christina Farni was baptized on the last day of 1598 (K1Stbg271). Church archives indicate that she may have married a Vincent Stouffer on 24th June 1614. However, the correctness of the information cannot be established as two Christina Farni wedded a Vincent Stauffer that year.
Michel Farni was christened on 26th December 1602 (K1Stbg296). According to the Julius Biletter sources he may have married a Madlen Mosbuhler on 7th November 1621. No further reliable traces of Michel are available as some church books of Steffisburg of that period are damaged and/or missing.

Ulrich Farni is the only known male child to have carried on the family bloodline. He was born in Eriz and the baptismal records show that he was christened on 7th October 1604 (K1Stbg308) in the District church of Steffisburg. Ulrich was raised and lived most of his life on the Farni farm on the Schwendi mountain in the Eriz valley. The only occasions for him to leave his valley were probably the Spring and Autumn shopping expeditions to the Thun fair for their main purchases of salt and iron tools. A practical road track for farm wagons drawn by a donkey leading out of the Eriz valley would not appear until several generations later. The access road to Steffisburg, although barely 15 km away, was difficult leading crisscross over the Zulg River and steep rocky passages barely practicable for pedestrians. Encounters with wolves and bears were not uncommon. His father Steffan taught him the basic farming skills and how to efficiently prepare and survive the long winters. Eventually he took over the reins of the farming estate when his father had become too old to govern. At the age of only 18, Ulrich married Anna Gluecki on 2 Nov.1622 (K2Stbg352) in the District church of Steffisburg.

The wedding records make no mention of Anna Gluecki's commune of origin which could be, according to the patronymic, the nearby district of Schangnau but the church books there started only in 1682. Based on the birthdate of their first child, Anna Gluecki was born around 1607. Ulrich and Anna had a total of eight known children all of whom were born in their Eckweid & Schwendi mountain home in the Eriz valley, with the assistance of the local midwife or simply the help of a neighbor. The details of these children will be described on the next generation (4).



Ulrich, son of Steffan von Farne and Barbara Dummermuth, baptized on 7 Oct.1604 (K1Stbg308).



Ueli (Ulrich) Farni and Anna Gluecki wedding on 2 Nov.1622 (K2Stbg352).

Ulrich Farni had become a wealthy farmer on his Schwendi Mountain and the adjoining Eckweid pastureland, both of which he had inherited from his parents. Considering the number of times he was named as the godfather in the baptismal books and in view of the ranks and of the personalities who attended as witnesses at the baptisms of his own children, Ulrich Farni was a well-known and respected person in the Steffisburg community. The godfather of his first son, Stephan, was none less than Mr Hans Gurtner, the Statthalter (Head of the District Council). And 15 years later, the godfather of his other son Hans was a Mr Stauffer, also a Head of the District Council; and the godmother of Hans was Verena Farni, wife of Hans Gurtner, former Statthalter.

To further confirm the reputation of the family, his wife Anna Gluecki appeared at exceptionally numerous honorary functions as godmother among the wider Farni families. On one of these baptismal documents, Anna is designated as the wife of Ulrich Farni the "Taufer" which is the first mention of the family's allegiance to the Anabaptist movement. The fact that Ulrich and later his first son, Stephan, belonged to the Anabaptist faith and Ulli junior, his second son, having been a leader of the 1653 Peasant War, made the family non-grata in the Steffisburg Region.

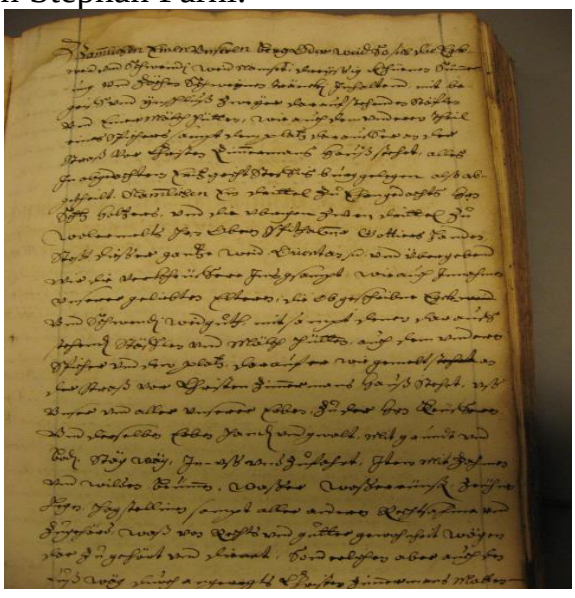
In retaliation for the family's hostile activities, they were forced, by the rulers of Thun and Bern, to move out of the region in 1662. The family had to split and the sons resettled to other parts of canton Bern; a) Stephan moved West to Thierachern on the other side of Thun; b) Ulli had left the Eriz farm of his parents when he married Anna Schoni and moved North West to settle in Kurzenberg in the district of Oberdiessbach; c) Hans moved South to Horrenbach located on the other side of the Hornegg valley, and d) Peter and Christen moved South to Reudlen, a hamlet near Reichenbach in the Kandertal valley on the other side of Lake Thun.

In a sales document concluded on 28 August 1662 in Wimmis (political district of Frutigen) and registered in the official Staatsarchive of Bern under (Kontraktenmanual StAB A084, pages 6-9, Bez.Niedersimmental), the family sold their land and properties in Eriz, as the summary of the attached Swiss German text in five pages below indicates:

" We, the Farni brothers Stephan, Ulli, Hans, Peter and Christen, the right full heirs, are by this document selling in the name of our parents the Schwendi mountain and the Eckweid pastureland located in Eriz and containing two farmhouses as well as one milking house and two granary storage huts for the sum of Krone.7'800.-, in Bernese currency, to Mr Johannes Holtzer, Shultheiss (Mayor) of Thun and to Mr Petter Gottier, member of the Upper Chamber of Bern (Grossen Rat). These properties were originally purchased by the family on 16 August 1592. "

There is no doubt that the sale of the Eriz properties to the two above mentioned aristocrats was made under duress, as the price of Krone.7'800.- is far too low for that period, as estimated by our genealogist and other experts of the region. At today's conversion rate, Pounds 7'800 is about US$.1.8 million. As the sales document mentions twice "we and our dear parents", is proof that Ulrich Farni the father and Anna Gluecki were still alive in 1662. They most probably had settled, some time before the sale, to Thierachern with their Anabaptist son Stephan Farni.







The Schwendi mountain belonged to the Farni clan for several generations


Farni Eckweid (square pastureland) opposite flank in Eriz

Land ownership

Considering that the regime in place was a medieval feudal system, it is necessary to have a brief look at earlier history and its social and political developments in order to understand 16th & 17th Century land ownership by ordinary people in the Swiss alpine region. Following the collapse of the Western part of the Roman Empire in the fifth Century AD, which succumbed primarily to Germanic invaders, Europe entered a period of invasions, conquests, plundering and migrations resulting in a long lasting cultural and economic decline. Invading tribes from the East roamed unchecked across Western Europe, spreading terror and causing impoverishment of the population. This period of chaos and wars spread over more than five Centuries and is commonly known as the Dark Ages.

As of the twelfth Century,a renewal of activities and structural organizations was emerging throughout power centers of Western Europe. About one Century later, the Alpine regions of the Waldstaetten in central Switzerland also began to re-open up and to integrate into the reemerging trade and communication networks, especially through the Swiss mountain passes connecting Italy with Central Europe. Part of this renewal of human activities must be attributed to the expansion of Christianity, which regrouped these mountain populations into loosely organized communities. Prayer buildings and Convents were erected and a feudal social order was gradually put in place by the powerful Dynastic Habsburg family originating from Aargau in Switzerland.

A large part of Western Europe belonged then to the German Roman Emperor who assumed protection of his territories and ruled through dynastic families such as the Habsburg, the Hohenstauffen, the Zaehringen and the Kyburg. Over time, a large number of imposing castles, fortresses and new towns were built by the above feudal dynasties. The towns of Bern and Thun were founded in around 1190 by the Zaehringen ruling family. In Bern, the houses were originally built in wood, and in 1405 a fire destroyed two thirds of the town. After this catastrophe, the center of Bern was reconstructed in sandstone in the basic architectural style, with its arcades, that survived to the present.

In the Middle Ages, Bern was the most important city state North of the Alps. Already in the thirteenth Century, Bern purchased the status of "Reichsstadt" (free town) from the declining German Empire, meaning that the Habsburgs lost a large part of control over Bernese affairs. As the City of Bern entered into league of the mutual assistance and defense pact with Zurich and the forest cantons "Waldstaetten" in 1353, this Alliance gradually denied the Habsburgs any influence in their fiscal, administrative and judicial systems. But only in 1848 did Bern become the capital of Switzerland.

Now consisting of the eight old cantons, this Alliance began to be known as the Swiss Confederation and was well on its way to become an independent state. As a result, the isolated mountain communities and all areas under Zurich and Bern's influence became practically sovereign and endured little to no interference from the Habsburg overlords. This allowed our Bernese mountain communities to thrive and expand their farming activities to largely unexploited pasture land located at higher altitudes, where trees no longer grow. As far as our ancestors are concerned, it must, however, be pointed out that the Habsburg overlords were simply replaced by the Nobility of Bern and high officials of the Church. Nevertheless, the fact that our mountain people were now governed by a local administration gave the successful and enriched local farmers and craftsmen the possibility to purchase and sell real estate through negotiated "Landrecht" (property titles). We have documented confirmation that our Steffan von Farne of generation two was the rightful owner of the Schwendi mountain and the Eckweid pastureland, which was successfully passed on to his descendants.

17th century Life and human accomplishments

The original three forest states "Waldstaetten" of 1291 expanded to eight city states in 1353. Further enlargement by way of admitting new cantons brought the then known "Old Swiss Confederation" to 13 sovereign cantons, also known as "Eidgenossische Republiken" (confederated republics) in 1513. This Swiss Confederacy did not change much in its fundamental structure until the French invasion of 1798. The Swiss Confederation was then surrounded by mostly kingdoms and principalities. The rural cantons maintained their ancestral method of government through the "Landsgemeinde" which is an assembly of all arms-bearing men. It was administered by a "Landrat", which is a council of the social elite, or Burgher class (merchants and landowners). The city states like Bern and Zurich were ruled by a "Grosser Rat", the Upper Chamber, and the "Kleiner Rat", the Lower Chamber, both under the control of the nobility and the hereditary aristocracy. The canton of Bern was administered by a number of "Landvogtei" (land districts), ruled by a "Landvogt" (district mayor). Our Steffisburg region belonged to the Thun land district and the powerful district mayor from Bern was stationed in the castle of Thun. The land district of Thun was subdivided into parish districts (the lowest political entity), of which Steffisburg was one, covering the Fahrni, Eriz and other villages. The political instance of Steffisburg was the church district council, ruled by the "Statthalter".

With the end of the Thirty Years' War, the Treaty of Westphalia of 1648 marked the beginning of independent nation states such as Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony etc. The European powers also granted the special status and neutrality to the Helvetian Confederates within the Holy German Roman Empire. At that time, the members of the Confederacy changed their old mutual defense agreement to a joint armed force of all member states. Swiss mercenaries continued to enlist in other European armies for the next two centuries because of their unrivalled reputation for their courage and fighting skills. The Swiss confederation had a population of about one million in the 17th century, with ups and downs due to the recurring pestilence epidemics in urban areas. In addition, smallpox and Typhus were especially deadly to children. But life of our forefathers living in the Swiss Alps did not change much during that century.

However, in the large capitals of Europe, many splendid treasure paintings were produced in the 17th century which are today prominently displayed in our most important museums across the globe. This century was definitely dominated by the Dutch Golden Age painters, with leading figures like Rembrandt, Van Dyke, Vermeer and Brueghel. But for the Dutch population, the Golden Age was not a peaceful one as they fought three wars against the English during that period. Other artists also contributed with their outstanding talent such as the Spanish Velasquez and Murillo as well as the French Poussin and Cezanne.

The first few great classical music composers emerged in the 17th century with Johann Pachelbel, best known for his Canon and Gigue composition which is still popular for weddings. Pachelbel also brought the German organ tradition to its apogee. Heinrich Schutz is another German composer and organist who influenced the musical world. Henry Purcell is best known for his uniquely English baroque music. Vivaldi, Bach and Handel were all born during the last quarter of the century but only started to compose in the early 18th century. But for the amateur music lovers of today, known successful composers of this period, whose names are still remembered, are few indeed. As for the Dutch, when considering their overwhelming contribution to painting during that century, they had strangely no - and never had later on - well known musicians. But then the most famous classical music composers of the time almost exclusively emerged in central Europe, with the German Kappellmeisters (Maestro) who understandably set up the paths to the art of music.

-Dutch Baruch Spinoza was a great but controversial philosopher of his time, who was expelled from the Synagogue for his interpretation of the orthodox Jewish Scripture.

	Hans Farni	~ 29 Aug.1602 Eriz
Christen & Anna Kemper	**Niclaus Farni**	~ 9 Oct.1603 Eriz
	Stephan Farni	~ 28 Jun.1607 Eriz
	Christen Farni	~ 22 Jan.1615 Eriz

Steph. & Verena Schwein-gruber	**Heini Farni**	~ 20 Oct.1606 Eriz
	Jakob Farni	~ 27 Aug.1609 Eriz
	Christen Farni	~ 17 Jan.1619 Eriz
	Stephan Farni	~ 6 Jan.1622 Eriz

Hans & Zumstaeg	**Ulrich Farni**	~ 11 Nov.1614 Eriz
	Stephan Farni	~ 21 Jan.1616 Eriz

	Uli Farni	Elsbeth Roth
Peter & Cathrin Imhof	~ 3 Jan.1641 Eriz	~ <-- 1648
	Hans Farni	~ 13 Mar.1643 Eriz
	Peter Farni	Elsbeth Eggli
	~ 4 Jun.1653; **T.**26 Aug.1702	**oo** 1672

Michael & B.Gerber	**Hans Farni**	~ 4 Feb.1621 Eriz
	Christen Farni	~ 20 Dec.1635 Eriz

Peter Margret Wenger	**Ulrich Farni**	Anna Meyer
	~ 7 Mar.1624 Eriz	**oo** 5 Feb.1641 Stef.
	Michel Farni	~ 24 Feb.1639 Eriz

	Stephan Farni	**Barbara Reusser**
	~ 1.Jan.1623 Eriz,	~ 1626, Eriz
	Taufer (Anabaptist)	
U	**r.** Eriz & Thierachern	
l	T 1668 --:	oo 29 Mar.1647 Steffisburg
r	**Ulli Farni junior**	Anna Schoni
i	~Jul.1624 Eriz, Steff	~ 18 Dec.1631 Oberdiessbach
c	**1653 Bauernkrieger**	oo 9 Mar.1649 in
h	**Leader of Peasant War**	Steffisburg
	r. Eriz & Kurzenberg/Linden	**p.** farmer
	T. 1672 **-->**	**T.** 1672 -->
	Johann Farni	
	~ 14 Sep.1625 Eriz	**T.** <- 1638
	Michael Farni	
&	~ 20 Jun.1630 Eriz	**T.** <- 1662
	Peter Farni	~ 1633 Eriz T.1640
	Hans Farni	Cathry Gerber
Anna	~ 24.Jun.1638 Eriz	oo 30 Jul.1664 Hor.
	T.1674 --:	r. Eriz & Horenbach
	Peter Farni	**Barbara Itten**
Glue-	~ 2.Aug.1640 Eriz	von Reichenbach
	r. Eriz & Reudlen	~ 12 Feb.1637
cki	p. Kramer/Merchant	oo 7 Nov.1662 Steff.
	T. Nov.1678 -->	T. 1686 -->
	Christen Farni	Catrin Farni
	~ 11.Sep.1642 Eriz	oo 15 Jan.1664 St
	T. 1685 -->	**T.** 1685 -->

Ulrich & Teuscher	**Peter Farni**	~ 7 Feb.1613 Eriz

Jacob & Cathrin Matter	**Niclaus Farni**	~ 11 Jan.1624 Eriz
	Hans Farni	~ 8 Jun.1634 Eriz
	Jacob Farni	~ 2 Feb.1640 Eriz

Michel & Marg. Rot	**Agatha Farni**	~ 19 Dec. 1641
	Michael Farni	~ 17 Aug.1645

Michel & A. Kernen	**Ulrich Farni**	~ 18 Nov.1650 Bern
	Hans Jacob Farni	~ 8 Oct.1657 Bern

Ulli & Elsbeth Roth	**Michael Farni**	~ 29 May 1670 Eriz
	Uli Farni	~ 18 Aug.1672 Eriz
	Peter Farni	~ 13 Feb.1676 Eriz
Peter & Elsb.Eggli	**Ulrich Farni**	~ 7 Aug.1681 Horren-
	Peter Farni	~ 24 Apr.1692 bach
Ulrich & Anna Meyer	**Stephan Farni**	~ 12 May 1644 Eriz
	Hans Farni	~ 6 Jun.1647 Eriz
	Christen Farni	~30 Dec.1649 Eriz

	Anna Farni	~ 10 Dec.1648 Eriz
	Ulli Farni	Barbara Rumpf
Stephan	~ 3 Aug.1651 Eriz	**oo** 7 Nov.1673 Spiez
	(on Mosestafel) Anabaptist	
Farni	**Stephan Farni**	Maria Hegg
	~ 2 Jul.1654 Eriz	oo 22 Jun.1677 Stef
of Eriz	**Peter Farni**	Magdalalena Staer
	~ 13 Jul.1656 Eriz	**oo** 5 May 1682 Steff
&	**(on Mosestafel) Anabaptist**	
	Hans Farni	~ 16 Jan.1659 Eriz
Barbara	**Hansen Farni**	Barbara Byland
	~ 25 Aug.1661 Eriz	**oo** 15 Aug.1690 Stef.
R	**Christen Farni**	Cathrina Im Hoof
e	~ 12 Mar.1665	**oo** 15 Oct.1686 Stef
	Taufer/Anabaptist	
u	**Betw. 1699-1701 Emigrated to Saxony**	
s	**T.** 1702 --> Saxony	**T.** 1702 --> Saxony
s	**Abraham Farni**	**Anna Carli**
e	~ 31 May 1668 Thier-	~13 Mar.1670 in
r	achern, canton Bern	Steffisburg, Switzerl.
	in Switzerland.	**oo** Mid.1694 Switz
	Taufer (Anabaptist), first emigrated abt	
	1714 as a farmer to Siegerland, Northern	
	Province, Prussia, until 1737, then USA	
	First arrival at Philadelphia port on 17 th	
	Sep.1727 on ship SS William & Sarah.	
	T. 1737 --> Lancaster County	**T.** 1747
	Catharina Farni	~ 5 Feb.1654 Linden in

Lancaster County Farni/ Forney Line.

Ulli Jr & Anna Schoni	**Hans Farni**	~ 1 May 1662 Ober-
	Ulli Farni	~ 10 Feb.1667 Diess-
	Peter Farni	~ 3 Nov.1672 Bach

Hans & Cathry Gerber	**Peter Farni**	~ 14 Jan.1666 Horren-
	Elsbeth Farni	~ 1 Nov.1668 bach
	Uli Farni	~ 15 Mar.1674 Horr.
	Christen Farni	
	~. 4 Oct.1663, Reudlen	**T.** <-- 1679
	Peter Farni	**oo** …. Dolder
Peter	~ 3 Feb.1665, Reudlen	
	T. <--Feb.1727	**p.** Kramer/Merchant
&	**Christina Farni**	Hans Jenni
	~ 18 Jan.1667 Reudl	~ Abt 1668
Barbara	**T** 1727-->	**oo** 15 May 1704, Frutigen
	Hans Farni	**Anna Poler**
	~ 15 Oct.1671, Reuc	~ <-- 1688, Frutigen
	r. Reudlen / Spiez / Reudlen	Switzerlan
Itten	**p.** glazier	**oo** 15 May 1704, Frutigen
	T 18 Nov.1754, Reuc	T Dec.1728 -->
	Christen Farni	Lucia Schneiter
	~ 10 Aug.1679 Reudlen	~ 1683
	bei Reichenbach, canton Bern	
	p. mercha	**oo** 26 Nov.1706 Schwarzenegg
	T. 26 May 1766, Reu	**T.**15 Dec.1757, Reudlen

Christen & Cathrin Farni	**Ulrich Farni**	Elsbeth Reusser
	~ 31 Dec.1665 Eriz	~ <-- 1671
	T. Feb.1703	**oo** 19 Jun.1685 Schwarze
	Peter Farni	~ 22 Aug.1669 Eriz
	Hans Farni	~ 19 Apr. 1674 Eriz
	Christen Farni	~ 15 Feb.1685 Eriz

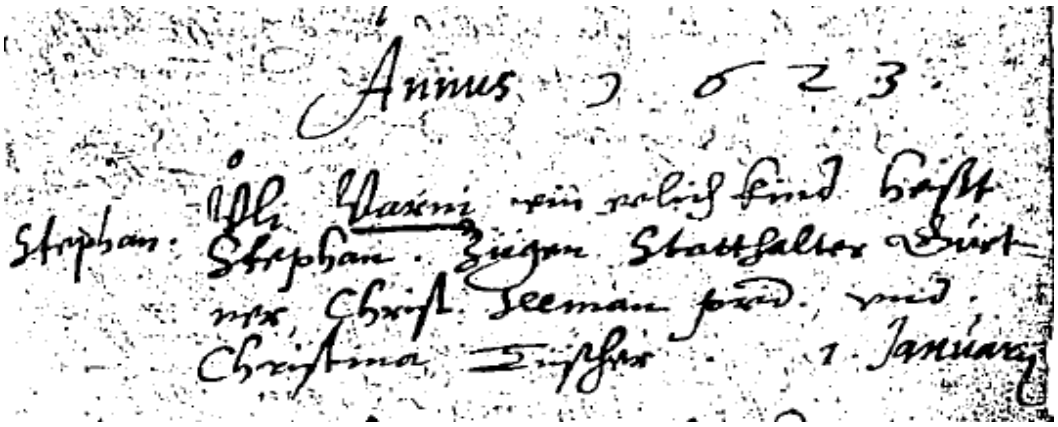
see lineage on pages 64 & 65

Generation 4

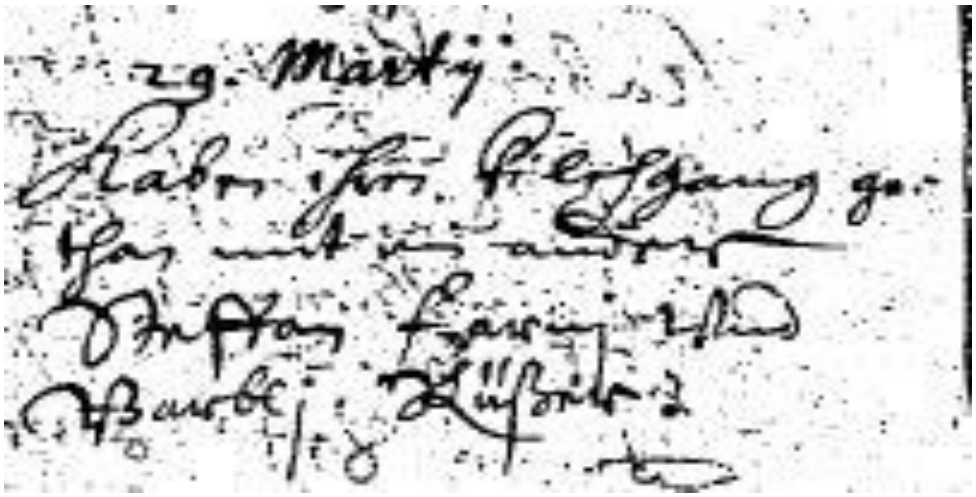
Stephan Farni is the first child of Ulrich Farni and Anna Gluecki and he was born in Eriz and baptised in the district church of Steffisburg on the first day of 1623 (K2Stbg147). Stephan's godfather was Hans Gurtner, "Statthalter" (Head of District Council). Like his father, he was raised on the family estate of Schwendi mountain and, aged 24, Stephan married Barbara Reusser, also from Eriz, on 29th March 1647 in Steffisburg (K15Stbg10).

Considerable research had to be undertaken into this couple as there was another Steffan Farni from Dachsegg, which is in the same church district, who had also married a Barbara Reusser a few years later, on 5th December 1651. Between 1648 and 1677, the baptismal records show that these two couples had a total of 21 children and the Steffisburg pastors did not always differentiate the two family parents at the christenings. However, eight children could be identified with certainty as being from our bloodline. The first seven descendants of Stephan and Barbara were born in Eriz, but the last one, Abraham, was born in Thierachern.

Like his father Ulrich, Stephan was also a Taufer (Baptist). Surprisingly, however, Stephan was, to our knowledge, the only child to have openly adhered to the Baptist faith. None of his siblings are known to have also been Baptists, at least not officially. As will be shown under generation five, six of Stephan's own children, namely Ulli, Stephan, Peter, Hansen, Christen and Abraham were also Taufers. And all were forced to leave Switzerland when they became adults. Stephan was a signatory to the Schwendi/Eckweid land sale of 1662 and he must have left Eriz with his family sometime after 1665 and moved South West to the other side of lake Thun and settled in the village of Thierachern. No burial records were found on Stephan and his wife Barbara, which indicates that they may have emigrated to the USA with one of their sons all of whom emigrated because of their Anabaptist activities. Stephan must have received his share of the US$.1.4 million value of the Schwendi\Eckweid sale of 1662, but no records were found on this transfer of wealth.



Stephan Farni (son of Ulrich & Anna Gluecki) baptized in Steffisburg on 1st January 1623



Stephan Farni and Barbara Reusser wedding in Steffisburg on 29 March 1647

Before moving forward with the life description of our ancestors of generation 4, it is felt necessary to cover beforehand the European and Swiss political upheavals of the period. During the first half of 17th century, the continent was engulfed in several armed conflicts, the most important being that of the **Thirty Years War** (1618 – 1648). This war confronted the Imperial ambitions of the roman catholic Habsburg Dynasty against the reformed German principalities, but most European nations were partaking in battles at one time or another during this long conflict.

The devastations, chaos and casualties resulting from these sporadic battles over a time span of three decades were incalculable as entire areas were reduced to rubble. And with the 1630 to 1639 bubonic plague contributing to the disaster, the population in some areas of central Europe fell by over 30%. The war ended with the Treaty of Westphalia of 1648, which also provided for the recognition by the European powers of Switzerland's independence and neutrality within the Holy Roman Empire.

The old regime of the Swiss Confederacy, then composed of 13 independent confederated republics, had adopted a "de facto" neutrality during the Thirty Years' conflict and was, as a consequence, successfully spared from active war actions. The concessions, however, were that foreign troops would be allowed to cross parts of the Swiss territories through the Alps via the Gotthard Pass relying Italy to Northern Europe.

The disruptions of agricultural output in the war zone areas created opportunities for our Swiss farmers to export their food products at higher prices to the German States. Such exports during a period of over two decades resulted in wealth among many Swiss farming families who became gradually larger landowners and more powerful.

<u>The 1641 War of Thun (Thunerkrieg)</u>

The near end of the 30 years' war resulted in the interruption of exports of agricultural products, thus provoking a recession which was particularly felt in the Bernese mountain regions. To make things worse during these difficult times, the sovereign Masters of Bern had introduced a special defense tax on the peasantry to cover their heavy fortification spending needed to improve the protection of the city of Bern.

This new defense tax was met with strong opposition from the farming community and led to the "Thunerkrieg " in 1641 **(The War of Thun).** The instigators of this revolt were mostly well to do farmers from the Steffisburg and Emmental regions. Unfortunately, after a short but fierce armed confrontation between the mountain peasants and the better equipped Bernese rulers' army, the peasant leaders were arrested, locked up in the castle of Thun, tortured and finally decapitated. How many of our Farni ancestors were involved in the Thunerkrieg we will never know, but one thing is clear; the church books of Steffisburg have quite a few missing Farni burial registrations during that period. Obviously, peasant rebel combatants who fell on the battlefield and those condemned to death would not be registered in the church books.



Another dramatic consequence of the end of the Thirty years' War was the loss of revenues to the Lordship of Bern for having been deprived of the lucrative business of sending mercenary regiments to the French and Spanish kings. Now the kingdoms were bankrupt and healing their wounds and they no longer needed to hire the reputedly fierce Swiss mercenaries. These financial strains were the main cause that brought about the devaluation by 50% of the Bernese currency "Batzen", which was followed by a sharp increase in prices and the introduction of new taxes by order of the patricians of Bern.

Agricultural output fell down to subsistence levels and numerous farmers were compelled to borrow money in order to survive and repay their old debts which had doubled with the 50% devaluation. As there were no banks in the rural areas in those days, the only way was to negotiate with the itinerant Bernese money merchants whose specialty was to lend funds to the deprived peasants. But one thing was not negotiable; a default in payment resulted in the confiscation of the property and the expulsion of the dispossessed farmer.

This accumulation of financial pressure on the farming populations of Emmental, Entlebuch and other nearby regions was enough to provoke a rebellion, the result of which can be considered as one of the many movements leading to more equality between towns and the countryside. The first meeting "Landsgemeinde" of this regional peasant revolt, on 13 April 1653 in Sumiswald, was attended by one thousand peasants approximately from the cantons of Bern, Solothurn and Basel. Niklaus Leuenberger, from the Berner Emmental, was designated as the leader of the rebel alliance. A second meeting of the insurgents was held one month later, on 14 May in Huttwil, where more concrete ideas were formulated. Their demands expanded from taxation to the more radical claim to become independent from the Bernese city state and its oligarchy.

The first negotiations between the farmers' leadership and the government of Bern began painfully during the last week of May; however, after 8 days of discussions an agreement was reached on the taxation issues following which the rebellious farmers returned home to attend to their urgent farming duties. Unfortunately, as it soon became clear, the Bernese City Council had no intention of honoring the agreement, and the farmers prepared for an all-out war, **The Swiss Peasant War.**

In the first week of June, 20'000 combatants took up arms under the leadership of Niklaus Leuenberger and marched towards the city of Bern; their first aim was to blockade any supply of food from the countryside in order to force the Bernese overlords to implement their taxation proposal. The sovereign masters of Bern had obviously closed the strategic city entrance doors and their canons were ready to fire on the assailants. This was the beginning of the **1653 Bauernkrieg (Swiss Peasant War)** and several battles took place between the two parties, destroying entire villages that went up in flames. The peasant rebellion gradually spread to a large portion of the Bernese countryside and beyond. But after only one month of fierce battles, it was all over with the defeat of the rebellious farmers. The final blow that defeated the rebels was due to the superiority of the cavalry regiments borrowed by Bern from their allied towns of Zurich and Geneva. Without military help from allied cities, the war would have lasted much longer and its outcome could have been different.

Many of the leaders of the ill equipped rebel farmers who survived the final battles were tracked down, captured, tortured and received long prison sentences. Many others, like Niklaus Leuenberger, were decapitated and their body parts displayed for several weeks in the main squares of Bern, Thun and Luzern. Others, like our direct ancestor **Ulli Farni Junior** - whose life story is told below - were imprisoned for many years in the Castle of Thun. In addition to the loss of life and long prison terms among the insurgents, a final and irremediable punishment was imposed on all family units known to have participated in or supported the conflict. This was the case of our ancestor **Ulrich Farni-Gluecki** of generation 3, who was forced to sell his Eriz properties. The same applied to his son, **Ulli Farni Junior**, whose family had to pay a very large fine to keep possession of the farming estate in Linden/Kurzenberg. The extremely heavy fines imposed on the war participants compelled many farmers to sell their land and property under duress to the Bernese patricians. As a result of this attempted peasant liberation movement, large areas of mountain farmland were transferred into the hands of the city of Bern aristocracy.

Several of the many books that were written on this turbulent rebellion - that later became to be known as the **"Bauernkrieg" (Swiss Peasant War)** - mention that the official delegate of the Steffisburg region to the Peasant War Council was a certain **Ulli Farni Junior from Eriz**.

The term **junior** was used then, as it is today, to distinguish a son who bears exactly the same full name as his father. In other words, the title of "junior" is designating the younger of father and son bearing the same Christian name. The Steffisburg church books of baptism were carefully researched for the 1600 – 1635 period to identify all Farni families where father and son were both named Ulli, or Ulrich. The above period of research was chosen on the assumption that at the time of the War, in 1653, the Farni war leader must have been between 25 and 50 years old. Surprisingly, there existed only one Farni family where father and son were both named Ulli/Ulrich during that period. And that family belongs to our direct Farni bloodline with the Ulli Farni below.

Ulli Farni Junior, born in July 1624 in Eriz, was the son of Ulrich Farni who had married Anna Gluecki on 2 Nov.1622. Our Steffisburg delegate to the Sumiswald and Huttwil Peasant War Council, **Ulli Farni Junior** from Eriz, then aged 29, was without any doubt our direct ancestor. Our Ulli Farni Junior lived on the Schwendi mountain and Eckweid family estate in Eriz until 1649, when he married Anna Schoni on 9 March of that year in Steffisburg (K15Stbg15). Anna Schoni was born on 18 Dec.1631 on the Kurzenberg, near Linden in the church district of Oberdiessbach. Ulli Farni junior moved from Eriz to Kurzenberg soon after his marriage to Anna Schoni in order to take over the farming estate of his wife's parents, namely Peter Schoni and Cathrin Muller.

A look at the dates of their children's births in Kurzenberg clearly shows a long absence of the father Ulli Farni Junior following the end of the Peasant war.
- 23 Dec.1649 birth of Catharina. She died before 1653
- 08 Jun.1651 birth of Hans. He died before 1653

April to July 1653 period of Peasant war
- 05 Feb.1654 birth of second Catharina (conceived before the war in April 1653)

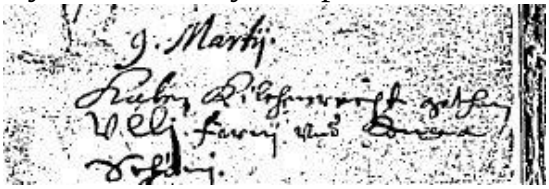
Eight year absence in prison of Ulli Farni Junior
- 01 May 1662 birth of second Hans
- 26 Nov.1665 birth of Anna
- 10 Feb.1667 birth of Ulli
- 13 Aug.1671 birth of Peter. He died soon after birth
- 03 Nov.1672 birth of Peter. The mother was then 41 years old.

The children of Ulli Farni junior are not yet further researched but their descendants would provide DNA proof of the blood relationship to our line.

Ulli Farni Junior was a co-signatory of the Eriz estate sale of 28 Aug.1662, after his release from prison. Also, in view of the birthdate of his child Hans, on 1st May 1662, Ulli must have regained freedom in Autumn of 1661. Our peasant war leader had disappeared without any trace for eight years, following the end of the war in July 1653. The tracking down by the authorities of those involved and of those who favored the rebels went on for years. It is not known how long Ulli was on the run and at what point in time he was arrested.

The War archives contain a document dated 7 July 1653 (StAB IV187 22 f) showing that Ulli Farni "der Junge" (junior) from Eriz transferred ownership of his Kurzenberg farming estate to the Schoni family (original owners) as follows: ¼ to his wife Anna Farni-Schoni and ¾ to the three Schoni siblings, with the Schoni father holding usufruct (right of abode). The size of the farming land is not mentioned on this document, but the contents of the estate are listed as 2 horses, 7 cows, 10 sheep, 3 pigs, various farming tools and wagons, several cheese blocks, meat etc. When considering the list of house furniture, the estate was definitely a large one for the period.

The 7th of July 1653 was the end of the war and it is most likely that Ulli Farni made the transfer of his farming estate while he was still free in order to safeguard the property in the family. The registration of such a document was also a protection against the widespread plundering of rebel farms by the victorious Bernese soldiers. Once the main culprits of the rebellion were arrested and punished, the Upper Chamber of Bern set up a military tribunal whose function was to impose the heaviest possible fines on those involved or by a confiscation of property if they could not pay the fine. This meant, in reality, that the patricians of Bern managed, through reprisal, to take over at cheap prices the land of the real or suspected participants in the peasant war. The children born to the Farni-Schoni family - after Ulli's release from prison - were still baptized with the mention "born in Kurzenberg" . This confirms that the farming estate had remained in the hands of the family and that they had paid a fine after the war.



Ulli Farni junior wedding to Anna Schoni on 9 Mar.1649 in Steffisburg.

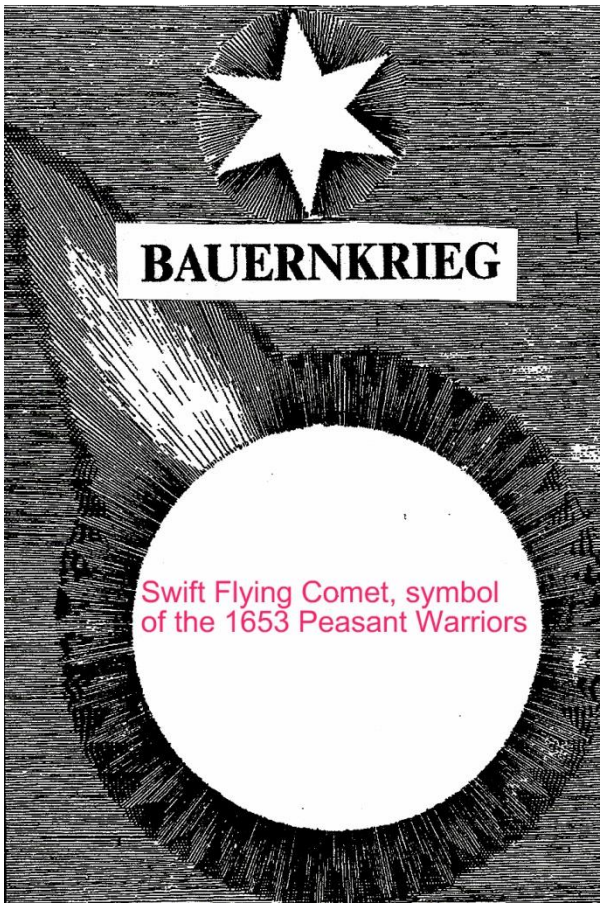


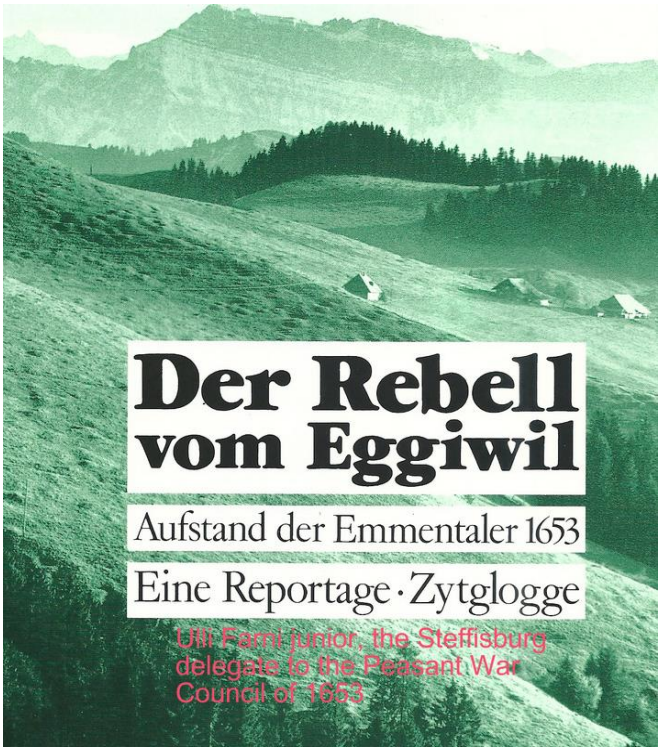
Der Bundesschwur in Huttwil.

Second Landsgemeinde, on 14 May 1653, in Huttwil, where rebel farmers swore allegiance to Niklaus Leuenberger, leader of the Peasant War Alliance



Breaking the bones on the wheel was a very effective method to obtain confession from the 1653 Rebels.





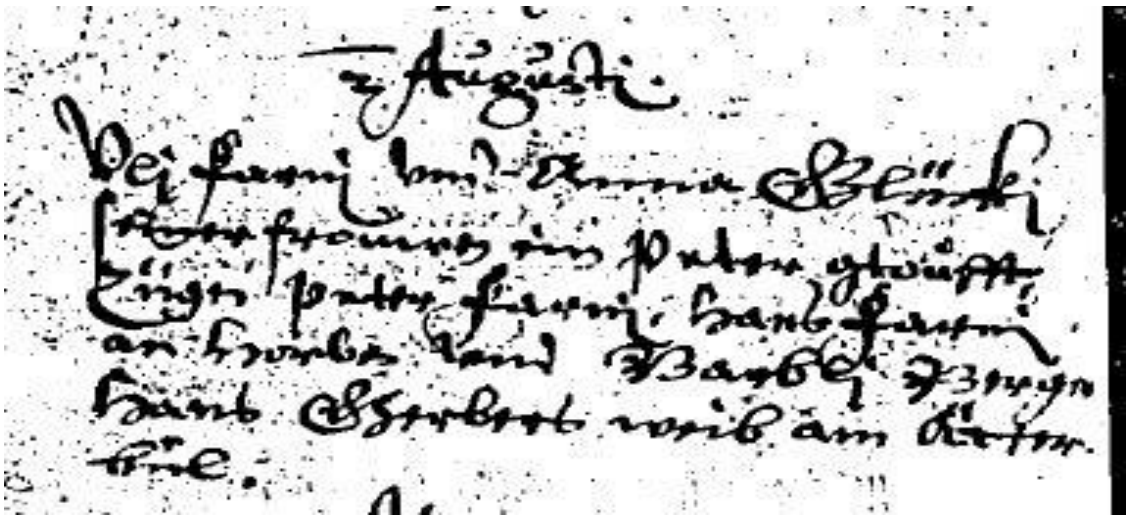
Below are the remaining Farni ancestors of generation 4.
Johann Farni was born in Eriz and baptised in Steffisburg on 14th September 1625 (K2Stbg173). As another Hans was born later in the family (Johann and Hans are the same), Johann must have died as a teenager sometime before 1638.
Michael Farni was born in Eriz and christened on 20th June 1630 in Steffisburg (K2Stbg208). As Michael does not appear in the land sales document of 1662, he must have died before the age of 32.
Peter Farni was born in Eriz and baptised in Steffisburg on 15th December 1633 (K2Stbg243) but he died in his childhood since another Peter was born in the family in 1640.

Hans Farni was born in Eriz and baptised on 24th June 1638 in the district church of Steffisburg (K2Stbg294). His godfather was Hans Stauffer "Statthalter" (Head of District Council) and his godmother was Verena Farni, wife of Hans Gurtner, the former Statthalter. The wedding church books of Steffisburg and nearby Hilterfingen indicate at least 6 possible marriages of Hans but none could be confirmed with absolute certainly. However, the Julius Biletter "Farni" book indicates that our Hans married a Cathry Gerber in 1664 while living in Horrenbach. His name is also mentioned in the 1662 sales document of the Schwendi mountain and the Eckweid. Three additional documents confirm the family link of Hans to our lineage, namely, a) Hans was the godfather of the second child of his brother Stephan & Barbara Reusser when Uli was baptised on 3rd August 1651; b) The wife of Hans, Cathry Gerber, was the godmother of the seventh child of Stephan-Barbara Reusser, when Christen was baptised on 12th March 1665; c) Brother Peter was the godfather of the first child of Hans and Cathry Gerber when Peter was baptised on14.1.1666 (K4Stbg114). Like the other members of his family, Hans was compelled to leave the Steffisburg region. About 1662, Hans moved South to Horrenbach located on the other side of the Hornegg valley, where he married and settled at least until 1674. Hans and Cathry had a total of three known children all born in Horrenbach, namely Peter, Elsbeth and Ulli. These three descendants were not further investigated. As no death certificates on Hans and his wife were found in Horrenbach, the family is assumed to have moved to another part of Switzerland.

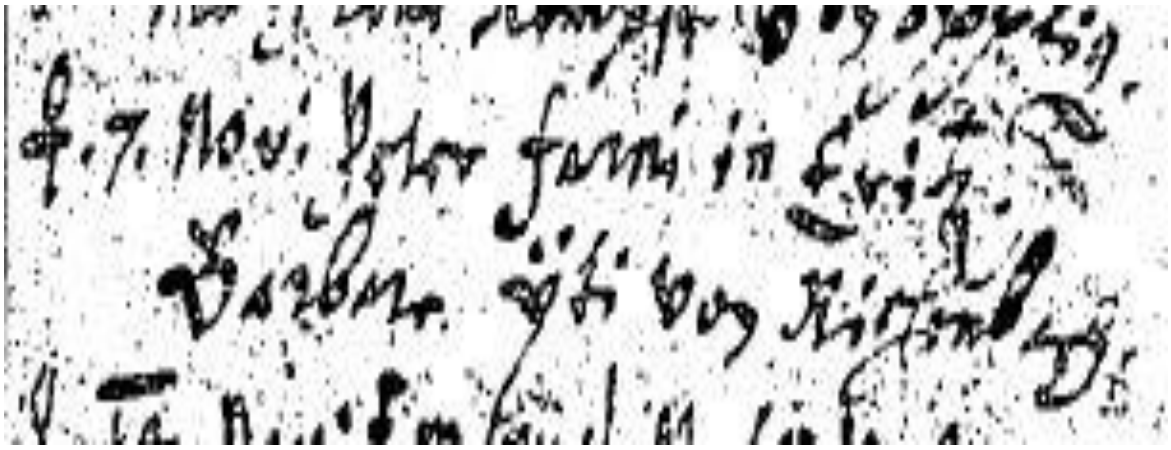
Peter Farni is the one who carried forward the Swiss Fahrni line as well as the New Philadelphia, Ohio, Johann Christian Fahrni / Fahrney family bloodline (Generation 9). Peter was born in Eriz and baptised in Steffisburg on 2nd August 1640 (K3Stbg8). Aged 22, Peter married Barbara Itten on 7th November 1662 in the church of Steffisburg (K15Stbg50). The wedding church book indicates that Peter was residing in Eriz - most certainly on his parents' Schwendi estate - which means that he must have relocated to Reudlen, district of Reichenbach in the Kandertal, just after his marriage. This move also coincides with the sale of the Eriz land and properties three months before his wedding and confirms that the whole family was forced out of the Steffisburg area. Barbara was 25 years old at the time of the wedding and she was born in Reichenbach on 12 Feb. 1637 (K03Rb12). Her parents were Kaspar Itten and Barbara Graf, married in Reichenbach.

It seems that Peter did not adopt – at least not officially – the Anabaptist faith of his father Ulrich and eldest brother Stephan. Nor did Peter participate in the Peasant War like his brother Ulli, as far as we know. And yet, Peter maintained close family ties as he became godfather to at least two children of his brothers, namely: a) to Christen, son of Stephan & Barbara Reusser, when he was baptised on 12th March 1665 (K4Stbg104); b) to Peter, son of Hans and Cathry Gerber when baptised on 14th January 1666 (K4Stbg114).

Official documents indicate that Peter was a "Kramer" (merchant) and with Barbara he had a total of five known children, all born in Reudlen. The details of these children will be given under generation five. Peter had also close contacts in the political circles as the godfather of his daughter Christina was none less than Jacob Jenner "Shultheiss" (Mayor of Thun). Peter was a signatory of the 1662 Schwendi mountain sale of Eriz. As no death certificate was found of Peter, we must assume is that he died after 1678, the conception time of his last known child Christen; but before 1686 when his wife Barbara is mentioned in a legal document (BezFrutigenA223/039) as the wife of a certain Niclaus Frutiger of Buhl near Hilterfingen.



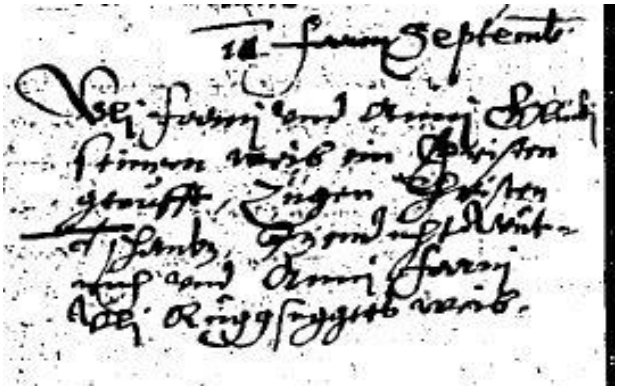
Peter Farni baptism on 2 Aug.1640 in Steffisburg church, son of Ulrich Farni and Anna Gluecki (K03Stbg8).



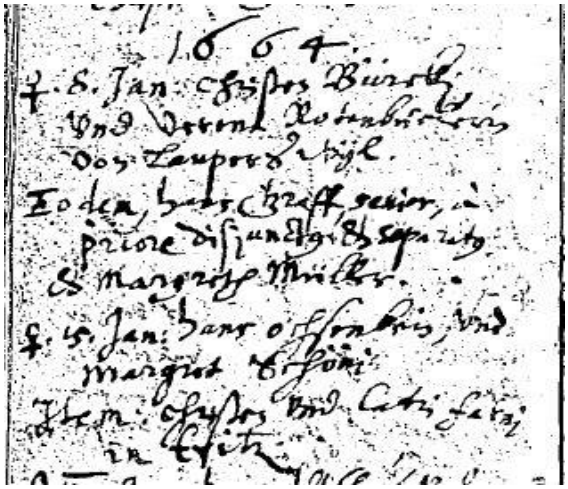
Peter Farni and Barbara Itten wedding on 7 November 1662 in Steffisburg church (K15Stbg50).

Christen Farni is the last known child born from our direct ancestors, the Ulrich Farni and Anna Gluecki couple, and he was baptized in the district church of Steffisburg on 11 September 1642 (K03Stbg46). At the age of 22 years, Christen married Cathrin Farni, also from Eriz (she was probably a cousin) on 15 Jan.1664 in the Steffisburg church (K15Stbg15). No death certificates were found on either Christen or his wife which lets us assume that they must have died after 1685, the birth year of their last known child.

The Christen and Cathrin Farni couple had a total of nine children, but only their first son Ulrich has left known descendants. The details of this prolific **Ulrich Farni & Elsbeth Reusser** family line are shown on the next two pages until generation 10.

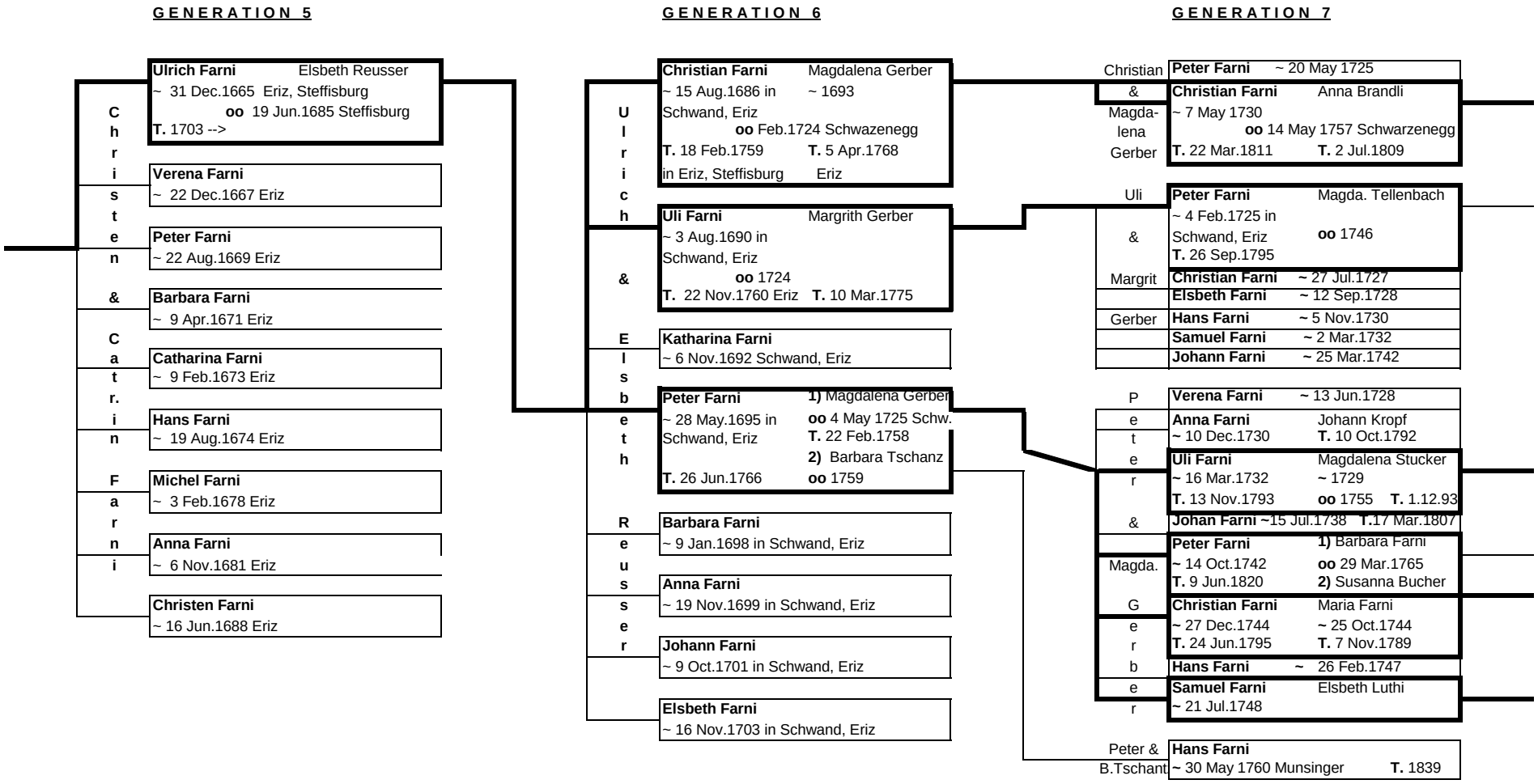


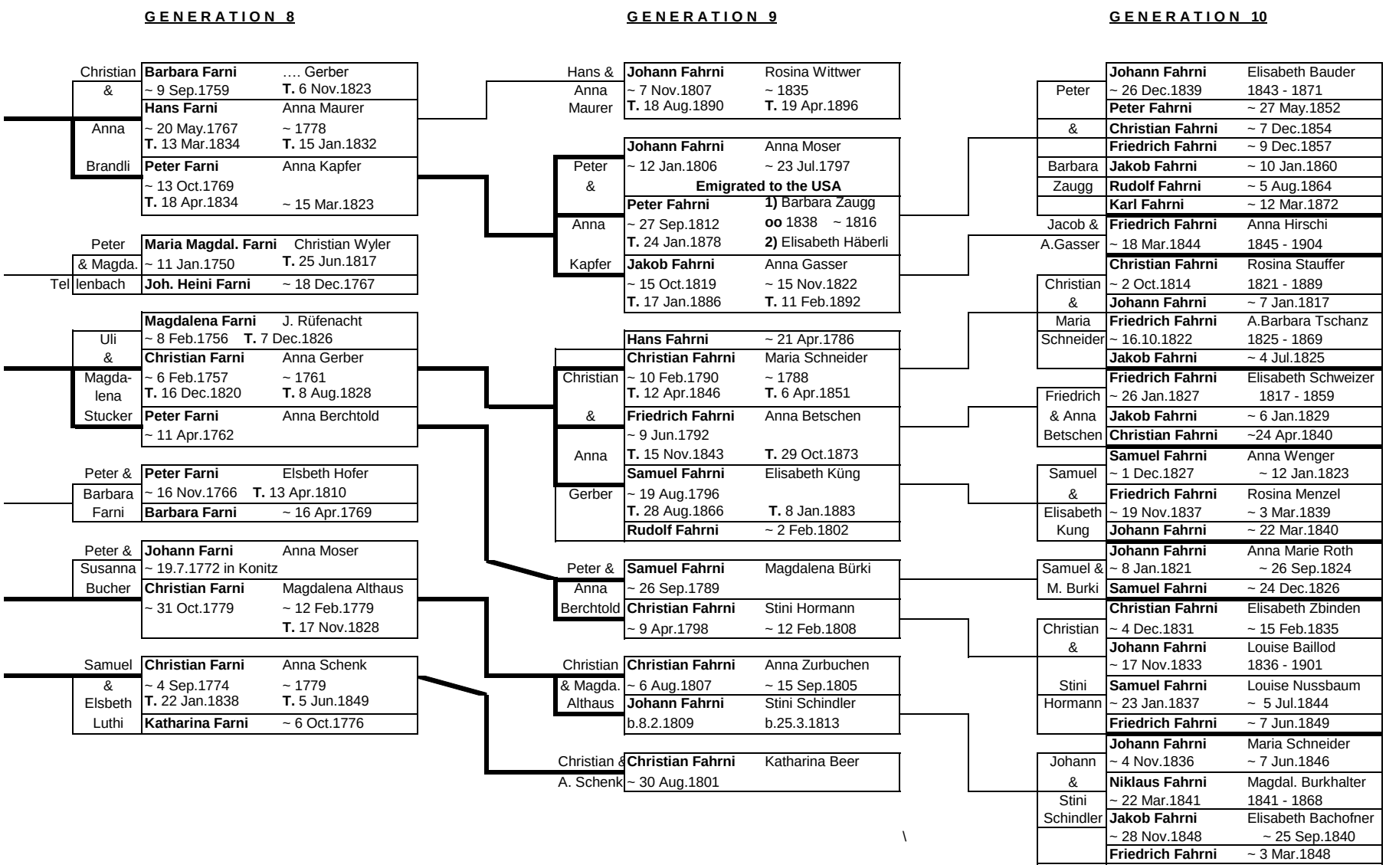
Christen Farni baptism on 11 Sep.1642



Christen Farni & Catrin Farni wedding on 15 January 1664

.


GENERATION 5
GENERATION 6
GENERATION 7
Ulrich Farni Elsbeth Reusser
~ 31 Dec.1665 Eriz, Steffisburg
oo 19 Jun.1685 Steffisburg
T. 1703 -->
Christen Farni
Verena Farni
~ 22 Dec.1667 Eriz
Peter Farni
~ 22 Aug.1669 Eriz
Barbara Farni
~ 9 Apr.1671 Eriz
Catharina Farni
~ 9 Feb.1673 Eriz
Hans Farni
~ 19 Aug.1674 Eriz
Michel Farni
~ 3 Feb.1678 Eriz
Anna Farni
~ 6 Nov.1681 Eriz
Christen Farni
~ 16 Jun.1688 Eriz
Christian Farni Magdalena Gerber
~ 15 Aug.1686 in Schwand, Eriz ~ 1693
oo Feb.1724 Schwazenegg
T. 18 Feb.1759 T. 5 Apr.1768
in Eriz, Steffisburg Eriz
Uli Farni Margrith Gerber
~ 3 Aug.1690 in Schwand, Eriz
oo 1724
T. 22 Nov.1760 Eriz T. 10 Mar.1775
Katharina Farni
~ 6 Nov.1692 Schwand, Eriz
Peter Farni 1) Magdalena Gerber
~ 28 May.1695 in Schwand, Eriz oo 4 May 1725 Schw.
T. 22 Feb.1758
2) Barbara Tschanz
T. 26 Jun.1766 oo 1759
Barbara Farni
~ 9 Jan.1698 in Schwand, Eriz
Anna Farni
~ 19 Nov.1699 in Schwand, Eriz
Johann Farni
~ 9 Oct.1701 in Schwand, Eriz
Elsbeth Farni
~ 16 Nov.1703 in Schwand, Eriz
Christian & Magda-lena Gerber
Peter Farni ~ 20 May 1725
Christian Farni Anna Brandli
~ 7 May 1730
oo 14 May 1757 Schwarzenegg
T. 22 Mar.1811 T. 2 Jul.1809
Uli & Margrit Gerber
Peter Farni Magda. Tellenbach
~ 4 Feb.1725 in Schwand, Eriz oo 1746
T. 26 Sep.1795
Christian Farni ~ 27 Jul.1727
Elsbeth Farni ~ 12 Sep.1728
Hans Farni ~ 5 Nov.1730
Samuel Farni ~ 2 Mar.1732
Johann Farni ~ 25 Mar.1742
Peter & Magda. Gerber
Verena Farni ~ 13 Jun.1728
Anna Farni Johann Kropf
~ 10 Dec.1730 T. 10 Oct.1792
Uli Farni Magdalena Stucker
~ 16 Mar.1732 ~ 1729
T. 13 Nov.1793 oo 1755 T. 1.12.93
Johan Farni ~15 Jul.1738 T.17 Mar.1807
Peter Farni 1) Barbara Farni
~ 14 Oct.1742 oo 29 Mar.1765
T. 9 Jun.1820 2) Susanna Bucher
Christian Farni Maria Farni
~ 27 Dec.1744 ~ 25 Oct.1744
T. 24 Jun.1795 T. 7 Nov.1789
Hans Farni ~ 26 Feb.1747
Samuel Farni Elsbeth Luthi
~ 21 Jul.1748
Peter & B.Tschant
Hans Farni
~ 30 May 1760 Munsinger T. 1839


GENERATION 8
GENERATION 9
GENERATION 10
Christian & Anna Brandli
Barbara Farni …. Gerber
~ 9 Sep.1759 T. 6 Nov.1823
Hans Farni Anna Maurer
~ 20 May.1767 ~ 1778
T. 13 Mar.1834 T. 15 Jan.1832
Peter Farni Anna Kapfer
~ 13 Oct.1769
T. 18 Apr.1834 ~ 15 Mar.1823
Peter & Magda. Tellenbach
Maria Magdal. Farni Christian Wyler
~ 11 Jan.1750 T. 25 Jun.1817
Joh. Heini Farni ~ 18 Dec.1767
Uli & Magda-lena Stucker
Magdalena Farni J. Rüfenacht
~ 8 Feb.1756 T. 7 Dec.1826
Christian Farni Anna Gerber
~ 6 Feb.1757 ~ 1761
T. 16 Dec.1820 T. 8 Aug.1828
Peter Farni Anna Berchtold
~ 11 Apr.1762
Peter & Barbara Farni
Peter Farni Elsbeth Hofer
~ 16 Nov.1766 T. 13 Apr.1810
Barbara Farni ~ 16 Apr.1769
Peter & Susanna Bucher
Johann Farni Anna Moser
~ 19.7.1772 in Konitz
Christian Farni Magdalena Althaus
~ 31 Oct.1779 ~ 12 Feb.1779
T. 17 Nov.1828
Samuel & Elsbeth Luthi
Christian Farni Anna Schenk
~ 4 Sep.1774 ~ 1779
T. 22 Jan.1838 T. 5 Jun.1849
Katharina Farni ~ 6 Oct.1776
Hans & Anna Maurer
Johann Fahrni Rosina Wittwer
~ 7 Nov.1807 ~ 1835
T. 18 Aug.1890 T. 19 Apr.1896
Peter & Anna Kapfer
Johann Fahrni Anna Moser
~ 12 Jan.1806 ~ 23 Jul.1797
Emigrated to the USA
Peter Fahrni 1) Barbara Zaugg
~ 27 Sep.1812 oo 1838 ~ 1816
T. 24 Jan.1878 2) Elisabeth Häberli
Jakob Fahrni Anna Gasser
~ 15 Oct.1819 ~ 15 Nov.1822
T. 17 Jan.1886 T. 11 Feb.1892
Christian & Anna Gerber
Hans Fahrni ~ 21 Apr.1786
Christian Fahrni Maria Schneider
~ 10 Feb.1790 ~ 1788
T. 12 Apr.1846 T. 6 Apr.1851
Friedrich Fahrni Anna Betschen
~ 9 Jun.1792
T. 15 Nov.1843 T. 29 Oct.1873
Samuel Fahrni Elisabeth Küng
~ 19 Aug.1796
T. 28 Aug.1866 T. 8 Jan.1883
Rudolf Fahrni ~ 2 Feb.1802
Peter & Anna Berchtold
Samuel Fahrni Magdalena Bürki
~ 26 Sep.1789
Christian Fahrni Stini Hormann
~ 9 Apr.1798 ~ 12 Feb.1808
Christian & Magda. Althaus
Christian Fahrni Anna Zurbuchen
~ 6 Aug.1807 ~ 15 Sep.1805
Johann Fahrni Stini Schindler
b.8.2.1809 b.25.3.1813
Christian & A. Schenk
Christian Fahrni Katharina Beer
~ 30 Aug.1801
Peter & Barbara Zaugg
Johann Fahrni Elisabeth Bauder
~ 26 Dec.1839 1843 - 1871
Peter Fahrni ~ 27 May.1852
Christian Fahrni ~ 7 Dec.1854
Friedrich Fahrni ~ 9 Dec.1857
Jakob Fahrni ~ 10 Jan.1860
Rudolf Fahrni ~ 5 Aug.1864
Karl Fahrni ~ 12 Mar.1872
Jacob & A.Gasser
Friedrich Fahrni Anna Hirschi
~ 18 Mar.1844 1845 - 1904
Christian & Maria Schneider
Christian Fahrni Rosina Stauffer
~ 2 Oct.1814 1821 - 1889
Johann Fahrni ~ 7 Jan.1817
Friedrich Fahrni A.Barbara Tschanz
~ 16.10.1822 1825 - 1869
Jakob Fahrni ~ 4 Jul.1825
Friedrich & Anna Betschen
Friedrich Fahrni Elisabeth Schweizer
~ 26 Jan.1827 1817 - 1859
Jakob Fahrni ~ 6 Jan.1829
Christian Fahrni ~24 Apr.1840
Samuel & Elisabeth Kung
Samuel Fahrni Anna Wenger
~ 1 Dec.1827 ~ 12 Jan.1823
Friedrich Fahrni Rosina Menzel
~ 19 Nov.1837 ~ 3 Mar.1839
Johann Fahrni ~ 22 Mar.1840
Samuel & M. Burki
Johann Fahrni Anna Marie Roth
~ 8 Jan.1821 ~ 26 Sep.1824
Samuel Fahrni ~ 24 Dec.1826
Christian & Stini Hormann
Christian Fahrni Elisabeth Zbinden
~ 4 Dec.1831 ~ 15 Feb.1835
Johann Fahrni Louise Baillod
~ 17 Nov.1833 1836 - 1901
Samuel Fahrni Louise Nussbaum
~ 23 Jan.1837 ~ 5 Jul.1844
Friedrich Fahrni ~ 7 Jun.1849
Johann & Stini Schindler
Johann Fahrni Maria Schneider
~ 4 Nov.1836 ~ 7 Jun.1846
Niklaus Fahrni Magdal. Burkhalter
~ 22 Mar.1841 1841 - 1868
Jakob Fahrni Elisabeth Bachofner
~ 28 Nov.1848 ~ 25 Sep.1840
Friedrich Fahrni ~ 3 Mar.1848

GENERATION 5

GENERATION 6

Ulli & Elsbeth Roth — **Michael Farni** ~ 29 May 1670 Eriz; **Uli Farni** ~ 18 Aug.1672 Eriz; **Peter Farni** ~ 13 Feb.1676 Eriz

Peter & Elsb.Eggli — **Ulrich Farni** ~ 7 Aug.1681 Horren-; **Peter Farni** ~ 24 Apr.1692 bach

Ulrich & Anna Meyer — **Stephan Farni** ~ 12 May 1644 Eriz; **Hans Farni** ~ 6 Jun.1647 Eriz; **Christen Farni** ~30 Dec.1649 Eriz; **Anna Farni** ~ 10 Dec.1648 Eriz

Stephan Farni of Eriz & Barbara Reusser

Ulli Farni ~ 3 Aug.1651 Eriz — Barbara Rumpf **oo** 7 Nov.1673 Spiez
(on Mosestafel) Anabaptist

Stephan Farni ~ 2 Jul.1654 Eriz — Maria Hegg oo 22 Jun.1677 Stef

Peter Farni ~ 13 Jul.1656 Eriz — Magdalena Staer **oo** 5 May 1682 Steff
(on Mosestafel) Anabaptist

Hans Farni ~ 16 Jan.1659 Eriz — Barbara Byland **oo** 15 Aug.1690 Stef.

Hansen Farni ~ 25 Aug.1661 Eriz

Christian Farni ~ 12 Mar.1665 — **Cathrina Im Hoof** **oo** 15 Oct.1686 Stef
Baptist. 1699-1701 Emigrated to Saxony
T. 1702 --> Saxony — **T.** 1702 --> Saxony

Abraham Farni ~ 31 May 1668 Thier- achern, canton Bern in Switzerland — **Anna Carli** ~13 Mar.1670 in Steffisburg, Switzerl. **oo** Mid.1694 Switz.
Taufer/Anabaptist, Emigrated in 1719
1720 farmer in Siegerland,
1731 farmer in Junkernhees, Westfalien
First arrival at Philadelphia port on 17th Sept.1727 on ship SS William & Sarah.
T. 1737--> Lancaster County — **T.** 1747 Lancaster Co

Lancaster County Farni/ Forney line.

Catharina Farni ~ 5 Feb.1654 Linden,

Ulli Jr & Anna Schoni — **Hans Farni** ~ 1 May 1662 in Ober-; **Ulli Farni** ~ 10 Feb.1667 Diess-; **Peter Farni** ~ 3 Nov.1672 Bach

Hans & Cathry Gerber — **Peter Farni** ~ 14 Jan.1666 Horren-; **Elsbeth Farni** ~1 Nov.1668 bach; **Uli Farni** ~ 15 Mar.1674 Horren-

Peter & Barbara Itten

Christen Farni ~ 4 Oct.1663, Reudlen — **T**. <-- 1679

Peter Farni ~3 Feb.1665 Reudle T <-- Feb.1727 — **oo** ….. Dolder **r.** Reudlen & Frutigen **p.** merchant

Christina Farni ~ 18 Jan.1667 Reud **T** 1727--> — Hans Jenni ~ Abt 1668 **oo** 15 May 1704, Frutigen

Hans Farni ~ 15 Oct.1671, Reuc T 18 Nov.1754, Reudlen — **Anna Poler** ~ <-- 1688 Frutigen **r.** Reudlen / Spiez / Reudlen **p.** glazier **oo** 15 May 1704, Frutigen T <--1728

Christen Farni ~ 10 Aug.1679 Reudl T 26 May 1766, Reu — Lucia Schneiter ~ Abt 1683 r. Reudlen bei Reichenbach **p.** mercha oo 26 Nov.1706 Schwarzenegg T 15 Dec.1757

Christen & Cathrin Farni — **Ulrich Farni** ~ 31 Dec.1665 Eriz T. Feb.1703 — Elsbeth Reusser ~ <-- 1671 **oo** 19 Jun.1685 Schwarzen; **Peter Farni** ~ 22 Aug.1669 Eriz; **Hans Farni** ~ 19 Apr.1674 Eriz; **Christen Farni** ~15 Feb.1685 Eriz

see lineage on pages 64 & 65

Ulli & B. Rumpf — **Christen Farni** ~ 13 Nov.1679 — Cathrin Burki **Anabaptists** **oo** 1 Mar.1720 Bern

Steph. & Mar.Hegg — **Christen Farni** ~ 2 Oct.1681, Eriz; **Abraham Farni** ~ 13 Jul..1684, Eriz

Peter & Magda-lena Staer — **Johannes Farni** ~ 13 Jul.1684 — Margret Raeber **T.** 1746; **Jacob Farni** ~ 6.Dec.1685, Thun — Eva Mettler **oo** 1 Apr.1717 Leissigen; **Christen Farni** ~ 27 Jan.1689 — Kathr. Ruegsegger **oo** Sep.1724; **Peter Farni** ~ 16 Aug.1691 — Katharina Farni **(Anabaptist)**; **Niclaus Farni** ~ 17 Aug.1698 — Verena Feller **oo** 1731

Hansen & Barbara Byland — **Hans Farni** ~ 12 Jan.1690 Thier. — 1) Verena Hofer 2) Barbara Zurcher; **Niclaus Farni** ~ 12 Dec.1697 Thier.; **Christen Farni** ~ 21 Jan.1703 Thier-; **Peter Farni** ~28 Oct.1708 achern

Christen & Cathrina Im Hoof — **Christanus Farni** ~ 29 Jan.1699, Eriz; **Johann Jacob Farni** ~ 4.Sep.1701 Hatten, Oldenburg, L.Saxony — Barbara Brugger/ **Baptist** Schlatter ***oo*** 1 Dec.1720 Salm **T.** 1728 --> Alsace Lorraine — Principality

Southern USA Farni Forney lin

Abraham & Anna Carli — **Peter Farni/Forney** ~14 Dec.1698Wattenwil; **Anna Schmid/Smith** ~3 Apr.1704Frutig; **Arrived in Philadelphia on 15 Oct.1727 on SS Friendship with brother Christen**

Progenito Lancaster Forney lin

Swiss Farni & Linnes

Hans Farni — **Peter Farni** **1)** Elsbeth Hiltebrand ~ Abt 1704, Reudlen bei Reichenbach ~ 3 Aug.1704 Diemtigen **oo** 4 Dec.1729 Schwarzenegg; r. Reudlen & Oey, Diemtigen **T**. 1752 Reudlen **2)** Barbara Rosti **p.** carpenter, Zimmermann ~ 1708, T 1784 **oo** 26 Nov.1752 Schw.; Aka: young glazier **3** Barbara Kernen **T.** 1784 --> **oo** 25 Jun.1784 Reichenbach

Hans Farni — **Hans Farni** **1)** Madlen Oberstag ~ Abt 1708 Reudlen ~ <-- 1718 T <--1764 **oo** 27 Mar.1732 Schwarzenegg; **r.** Reudlen **2)** Katharina Sahli St Stephan ~ 1712 T 1768 Reudlen; p. carpenter / glazier **oo** 3 Aug.1764 Reichenbach Zimmermann **3** Anna Stalder **T.** 28 Feb.1787 **oo** 17 Jul.1768 St Stephan

Anna Poller — **Christen Farni** **1)** **Katharina Schluchter** ~ 18 Dec.1718 in Reudlen bei Reich-enbach, Kandertal. ~ 17 Jan.1725 in Ollon, canton Vaud **oo** 2 Apr.1745 Reichenbach; r. Reudlen, Wengi & Frutigen **T.** 20 Oct.1769 Reudl **2)** Susanna Mar Sahli ~ <- 1749 T. 1786 **T.** 11 April 1785 in Reudlen b.Reichenba **oo** 4 Aug.1771 in Frutigen

Christen & Lucia Schneiter — **Christen Farni** **1)** Susanna Krebs ~ 5 Feb.1708, in Reudlen, Kandertal ~ 8 Aug.1724 Wattenwyl **oo** 1762 **T.** 8 Feb.1763; **p.** farmer **2)** Madlena Klopfer T. 8 Feb.1776 in Uebeschi, BE ~ 1740 T 24 Jul.1810 **oo** 2 Dec.1763 Schwarz.; **Anna Farni** ~ 4 Aug.1715 Reudle — Hans Magert **oo** 20 Jul.1767

Generation 5

This Generation shows two distinct Farni lines, first our cousins, the descendants of Stephan and Barbara Reusser, aka the **Anabaptists**, and secondly our direct ancestral line namely the descendants of Peter and Barbara Itten, called the **Protestants.** Before describing the lives of our family members of generation 5, let me say a few words about Anabaptism in the region of our ancestors, Steffisburg.

For over a Century now, many North American Amish pilgrims have been visiting the Steffisburg village church, near Thun in canton Bern, either in small groups or through "Goodly Heritage", to render homage to their Swiss "Taufer" ancestors. This church is of great significance to the many American Amish who traced their roots back to Steffisburg of the 17th and 18th Centuries.

The Steffisburg church, which was first built in the early Middle Ages, had "Saint Stefan" as patron and the original name of the town hosting this church was Stefansburg - to become Steffisburg in the 15th century. Archaeological excavations indicate a remarkably detailed history of the church that was first erected around 700 AD and rebuilt in 900 AD. About one hundred years later, a Romanesque basilica was built on the same foundations with a central nave and aisles on both sides. A tower clock was added to the building in the year 1310, but the chapel adjoining the basilica, erected in 1490, was unfortunately destroyed during the 1528 Reformation leading to the change from Catholicism to Protestantism. In the year 1681, the basilica was torn down and the new church was erected on the same site, which is the building standing today, more than 300 years old.

The most outstanding treasure related to the history of the Steffisburg region is a large painting still hanging in the church today, named the "Mosestafel". This wonderfully preserved work of art was painted by local artist Christian Stucki in 1682, one year after the completion of the new church. The Table of Moses, "Mosestafel", depicts Moses behind two tablets containing the 10 Commandments.



The Mosestafel, hanging in Steffisburg Church

The painting also commemorates important personalities of the time in the area of Steffisburg, most of whom converted and became leaders and martyrs of the "Taufer" (aka Amish/ Anabaptist/Mennonite) movement. Their family names and Heraldic Shields are shown at the bottom and on the sides of the painting. Among the citizens appearing on the Mosestafel are the brothers Ulli Farni ~3Aug.1651, and Peter Farni ~ 13 Jul.1656, sons of our Stephan Farni and Barbara Reusser (generation 4). They are also the grandsons of our direct ancestors Ulrich Farni and Anna Gluecki (generation 3), who ae well known in the church books as Anabaptists.

Moreover, Ulli and Peter Farni are also the elder brothers of Abraham Farni, born on 31 May1668, who immigrated to Philadelphia in 1727 with his wife Anna Carli. With their children, Abraham and Anna founded the well-known Lancaster County Forney lineage.

A closer study of the family names appearing on the Mosestafel shows that many can be linked to our Baptist Farni line. For instance, Barbara Reusser, wife of Stephan Farni (generation 4) was the daughter of Katharina Schneitter & Hans Reusser, born in Eriz; this same Katharina Schneitter was the sister of Jakob Schneitter whose coat of arms is next to that of Peter Farni. And next to Peter Farni's shield is that of Peter Carli, the father of Anna Carli-Farni of the Lancaster County Forney line. More, in generation 5, Christen Farni, son of Stephan and Barbara, married Cathrina Im Hoof; they emigrated to Lower Saxony between 1699 and 1701, the place where they settled. Their grandchild Jacob Farni/Forney is most probably the progenitor of the American Southern Forney line, although DNA confirmation is still missing. Furthermore, Cathrina Im Hoof was the daughter of Barbli Stauffer and Christian Im Hoof who is also listed on the Mosestafel. In addition, the following names appearing on the Mosestafel have intermarried with Farni families in the Palatinate, as well as in the Principality of Salm and in Westphalien, namely : Joder, Zaugg, Stucker, Reist, Gungerich, Berger, Meyer and Lehmann. In his book "Swiss German Settlements of Pennsylvania", Professor Kuhns states (page 46) that in 1710 the following families were banned from canton Bern because of their Baptist faith : Farni, Joder, Baumgartner, Brechbuhl, Rupp, Aeschliman, Maurer, Gut, Ebersold, etc.

Part of Mosestafel in Steffisburg church



Jacob Schneitter Peter Farni Peter Carli

The Anabaptists and Mennonites

In the 17th century, a great number of families had left the Reformed church to join the Taufer/Anabaptist movement as they objected, among other things, to baptize children which was in their opinion contrary to the holy book. Steffisburg area was one of the main centers for the Baptist faith, but the local church books indicate that many Taufer did not abandon the practice of infant baptism until they had fled the country. They were aware that not to baptize one's children was very severely punished. To belong to the Anabaptist/Baptist faith in those days was dangerous as the Reformed church officials, with the complicity of the Bernese authorities, brutally persecuted the so-called "heretics". Often, their properties were confiscated before expulsion from the land.

The founder of the Swiss Anabaptist community was Jakob Ammann, born in 1644 in Simmental, canton Bern. Ammann gained the largest following among the peasant population in the Thun region and later in all of canton Bern and finally obtained a foothold in a large part of the country. This conservative protestant splinter group, locally identified as Taufer (Baptizers) or Wiedertaufer (Re-baptizers), is better known abroad as Amish (the name Amish derives from Ammann).

Jakob Ammann lived in Oberhofen, near Thun, and was the leader of this Baptist religious movement until he had to flee the country. As a tailor by profession, Jakob Ammann established a dress code for his Taufer/Amish followers and their clothing became an expression of their faith, which is still in use by the Amish in America today. Women wear long sleeves and full skirts to cover their knees, in addition to aprons; they also must cover their head. Men wear dark colored suits with suspenders on trousers and a dark hat; once married, they grow a beard.

With the growing influence of the Anabaptists, the Masters of Bern launched more virulent persecution campaigns as from 1670. It was officially declared that the Taufer "plague" should be removed from the land with nothing less than extermination. In an effort to locate as many Anabaptists as possible, Bern offered rewards to Taufer hunters. Many Baptist preachers were hunted down, then hanged or drowned in the river. Some adherents were sent to galley slavery in Italy. This resulted in a stream of refugees, forced to flee their land, and sailing down the Rhine River to the Palatinate and to Alsace, which were more tolerant towards religion.

Later, some families migrated northward through the Voges mountains to the Principality of Salm. And it appears that most of the folks listed on the Mosestafel, or their descendants, fled Switzerland and settled in the Southern part of what is now Germany. It is no wonder that Jakob Ammann also fled to Alsace and finally settled in Sainte-Marie-Aux-Mines (Markrich), in 1695, where he held a Ministry.

Menno Simons was the Dutch Anabaptist and his community became later known as the Mennonites (deriving from his name). He was mostly active in organizing congregations in the area now known as Lower Saxony. But Menno Simons also ended up in exile in Alsace and, for a while, both Jakob Ammann and Menno Simons had a close association in their teaching. They had similar views on baptism and bible doctrine in general, but with time they split because of methods of teaching and application of the doctrine. The Swiss Amish were more conservative and considered the Dutch Mennonites had a lack of discipline. Jakob Amman and Menno Simons also had different views on the dress code.

At the beginning of the 18th century, the Amish and the Mennonites started to migrate to America, especially to Pennsylvania as part of William Penn's holy experiment of religious tolerance. William Penn was an aristocrat and a Quaker who received a charter from the British government for a new colony, hence the name of PENN Sylvania. Many Farni families first settled in Lancaster County of Pennsylvania and most distant cousins now bear the name of Forney or Fahrney across the USA.

The Amish and Mennonite doctrines are now over 500 years old and met the needs of many generations of the past. And no doubt many faithful will continue to cling to their traditions mainly because they still do live in close knit communities. But times are changing and many are no longer practicing the faith of their ancestors. And the fact that some Amish are now gradually adapting to the modern world, by driving cars etc., indicates that their religious doctrine was not as divine as many believed but had rather become a way of life.

Mosestafel painting in Steffisburg church





Steffisburg Church

GENERATION 5 **GENERATION 6**

THE ANABAPTIST FARNI LINEAGE

Stephan Farni of Eriz & Barbara Reusser

Anna Farni
~ 10 Dec.1648, Eriz, Steffisburg, c. Bern

Ulli Farni Barbara Rumpf
~ 3 Aug.1651 in Eriz, **oo** 7 Nov.1673 Spiez
Steffisburg chruch district, canton Bern
(on Mosestafel), Anabaptist
In 1710, Ulli & Barbara were deported as Anabaptist prisoners to Mannheim.
T. 1710 --> **T.** 1710 -->

Stephan Farni Maria Hegg
~ 2 Jul.1654, Eriz in **oo** 22 Jun.1677 Stef
Steffisburg church district, Switzerland
T. 1683 --> **T.** 1684 -->

Peter Farni Magdalena Staer
~ 13 Jul.1656 in Eriz, von Gurzelen, BE
Steffisburg church **oo** 5 May 1682 Steff
district, Switzerland
(on Mosestafel), Anabaptist
T. 1698 -->

Hans Farni
~ 16 Jan.1659 Eriz **T. <--** 1661

Hansen Farni Barbara Byland
~ 25 Aug.1661 Eriz, **oo** 15 Aug.1690 Stef.
Steffisburg, Bern
p. School teacher in Thierachern
T. **T.**

Christian Farni Cathrina Im Hoof
~ 12 Mar.1665 **oo** 15 Oct.1686 Stef
Taufer/Anabaptist
Between 1699-1701 family emigrated to Hatten, Oldenburg district, Lower Saxony
T. 1702 --> Saxony **T.** 1702 --> Saxony

(Name change from Farni to Forney in USA)

Abraham Farni/Forney **Anna Carli**
~ 31 May 1668 Thier- ~13 Mar.1670 in
achern, canton Bern Steffisburg, Switzerl.
in Switzerland **oo** Mid.1694 Switz.
Taufer/Anabaptist
Places of residence:
1668-1693 : Thierachern and unknown
1694-1696 : Steffisburg, Switzerland
1697-1708 : Wattenwil, Switzerland
1708-1713 : No data, about 1710 to Prussia
1714-1716 : Lived in Siegerland, Prussia
1717-1718 : Lived in Siegertal, but no data
1719-1727 : Lived in Siegerland, Prussia
First arrival at Philadelphia port on 18th Sept.1727 on ship SS William & Sarah.
About 1730 : period of return to Prussia
1731-1737 : Lived in Siegertal, Prussia
Other known arrival Philadelphia port on SS Samuel on 30 Aug.1737.
T. 1737 --> Lancaster **T.<--**Feb.1747 in
County, PA Lancaster County

Farni/ Forney Lancaster USA line

Ulli & B. Rumpf

Christen Farni Cathrin Burki
~ 13 Nov.1679 **oo** 1 Mar.1720 Bern
Anabaptist

Stephan and Maria Hegg

Magdalena Farni ~ 25 Nov.1677 Eriz
Anna Farni ~ 10 Nov.1678 Eriz
Maria Farni ~ 8 Feb.1680 Eriz
Christen Farni ~ 2 Oct.1681, Eriz
Barbara Farni ~ 23 Feb.1683 Eriz
Abraham Farni ~ 13 Jul..1684, Eriz

Peter & Magda-lena Staer

Johannes Farni Margret Raeber
~ 13 Jul.1684 **T.** 1746
Jacob Farni Eva Mettler
~ 6.Dec.1685, Thun **oo** 1 Apr.1717 Leissigen
Christen Farni Kathr. Ruegsegger
~ 27 Jan.1689 **oo** Sep.1724
Peter Farni Katharina Farni
~ 16 Aug.1691 **(Anabaptist)**
Niclaus Farni Verena Feller
~ 17 Aug.1698 **oo** 1731

Hansen & Barbara Byland

Hans Farni 1) Verena Hofer
~ 12 Jan.1690 Thier. 2) Barbara Zurcher
Niclaus Farni ~ 12 Dec.1697 Thier.
Christen Farni ~ 21 Jan.1703 Thier-
Peter Farni ~ 28 Oct.1708achern

Christen Farni & Cathrina Im Hoof

Elsbeth Farni ~ 3 Jul.1687 Eriz
Verena Farni ~ 5 Aug.1688 Eriz
Barbara Farni ~ 9 Mar.1690 Eriz
Anna Farni ~ 12 Jul.1691 Eriz
Cathrin Farni ~ 10 Sep.1693 Eriz
Magdalena Farni ~ 28 Apr.1695 Eriz
Christanus Farni ~ 29 Jan.1699, Schw
Johann Jacob Barbara Brugger,
Farni / Forney widow Schlatter
~ 4.Sep.1701 Hatten, aka Schlaster
Oldenburg, L.Saxony ***oo*** 1 Dec.1720 Salm
Taufer/Anabaptist Principality
T. 1728 --> Alsace Lorraine

Southern USA Farni /Forney line

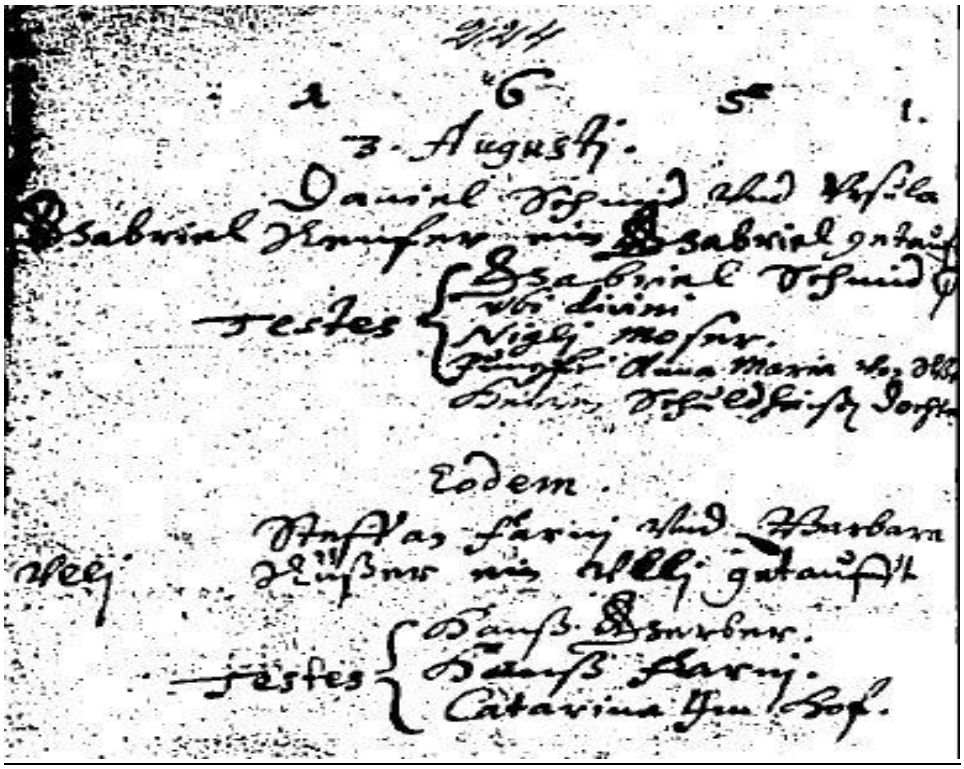
The Anabaptist Ulli Farni

Stephan Farni and Barbara Reusser had eight known sons, most of whom had emigrated with their children due to their pacifistic Anabaptist religion.

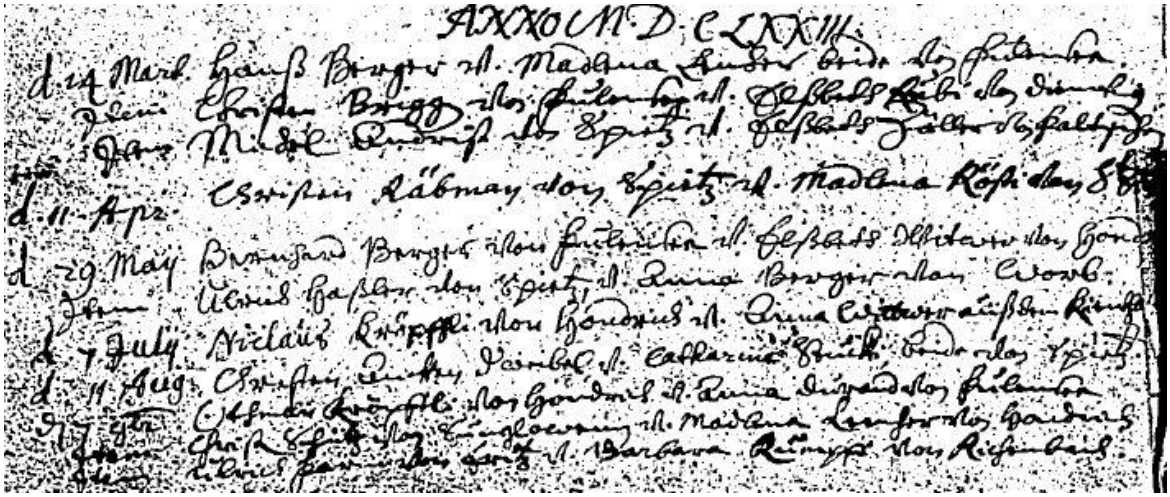
Ulli Farni is the first known son of this family and he was born on the family estate of Schwendi in Eriz and baptized in the Steffisburg church on 3 August 1651 (K3Stbg224). As mentioned earlier, the Anabaptists did not abandon the tradition of baptizing their children, as this was inviting trouble with the Reformed church officials. At the age of 22, Ulli married Barbara Rumpf in Spiez on 7 November 1673 (K1Spiez235). Six years after their wedding, we find the birth of one son named Christen, born on 17 November 1679. This Christen married a Cathrin Burki on 1 March 1720 in Bern, but no further data is available. As an Anabaptist, their son Christen most probably emigrated to the Palatinate with his family.

Ulli Farni has his name and coat of arms displayed on the Mosestafel in the Steffisburg church. Because of his Taufer activities the data on him and on his family is incomplete, indicating that they did not lead a sedentary life. The fact that Ulli and Barbara had their first and only known child six years after their wedding is contrary to traditions of the time and they probably moved from town to town. In those days, Anabaptists were forced to flee their Switzerland, or worse, suffered repeated group expulsions.

According to the book "History of the Bernese Anabaptists", in 1710 a ship with exiled Anabaptists from Bern sailed down the Rhine river on its way to Rotterdam. But it stopped in Mannheim, Palatinate, to disembark 33 of the 57 refugees, mainly the old, the sick and the weak. The shipping document of 28 March 1710 listed as passengers a Ulrich Farni from Schwarzenegg and his wife Barbara (Rumpf?). The remaining 24 prisoners (those who were strong) sailed on to Nijmegen in the Netherland where they were set free on 9 April 1710 thanks to the intervention of the Dutch Brethren. It is almost certain that this Ulrich Farni and his wife Barbara were from our above line, although DNA confirmation would be needed to be absolutely certain. In the affirmative, they were probably disembarked in Mannheim, as our Ulli was then 60 years old which was old for that period. It can therefore be assumed that both Ulli and his wife Barbara died after 1710.

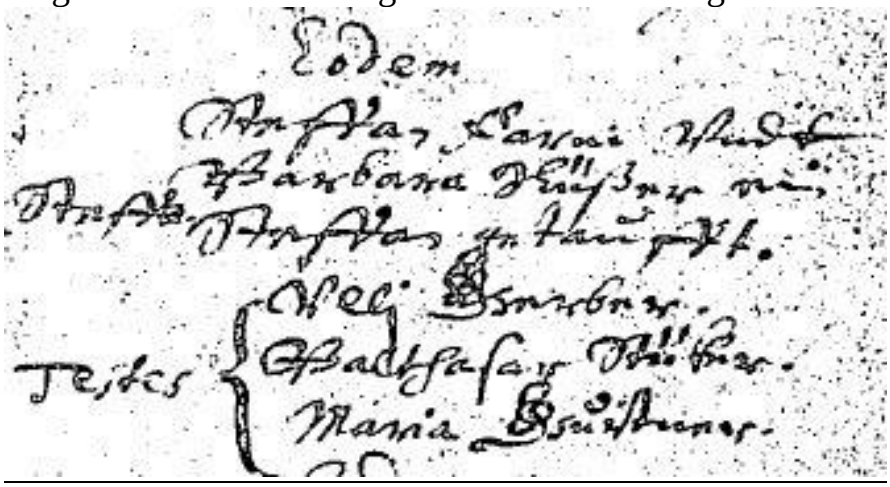


Ulli Farni baptism on 3 August 1651 in the Steffisburg church, son of Stephan & Barbara Reusser (K3Stbg224

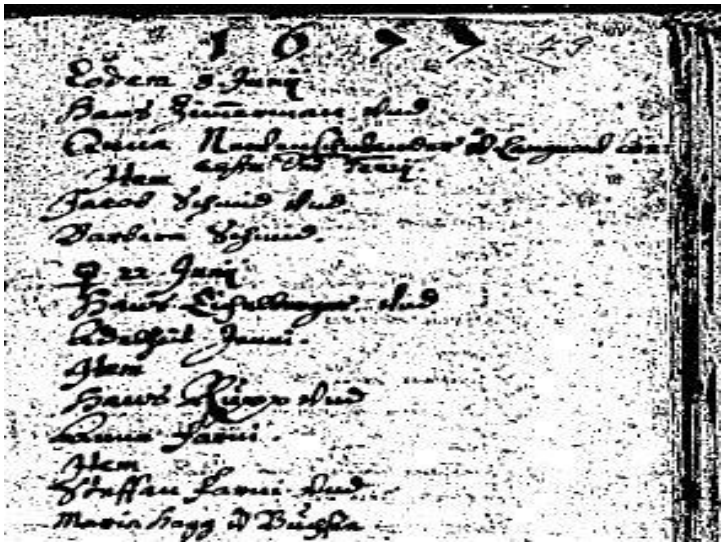


Ulli Farni & Barbara Rumpf wedding on 7 Nov.1673 (K1Spiez235)

Stephan Farni is the second son of Stephan and Barbara Reusser and he was born on the family estate of Schwendi/Eckweid, in Eriz, and baptised on 2 July 1654 in the Steffisburg church (K3Stbg485). At the age of 23, on 22 June 1677, Stephan wedded Maria Hegg in the church of Steffisburg (K15Stbg79). We were able to locate the birth of six children of that union, but no traces could be found on them as they probably emigrated with their parents. No further data was found on the Stephan and Maria couple. Having been born into a Baptist environment, this family was most probably also adhering to this faith and emigrated like their siblings.



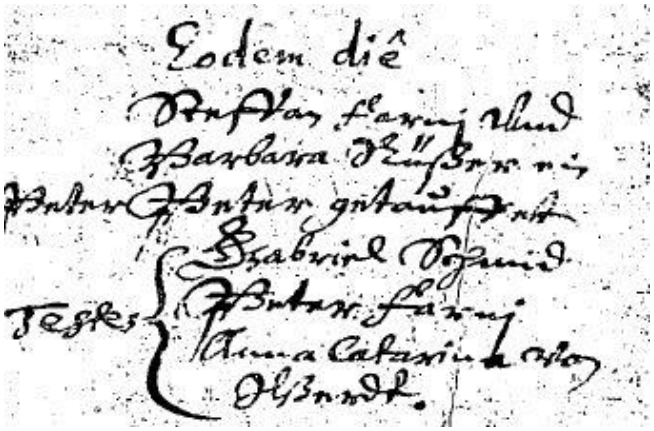
Stephan Farni baptism in Steffisburg on 2 July 1654
son of Stephan and Barbara Reusser)



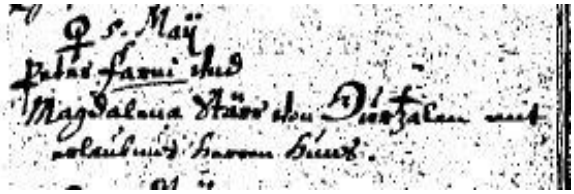
Stephan Farni & Maria Hegg wedding on 22 June 1677, Steffisburg

Peter Farni is the other family member who has his name on the famous Mosestafel located in the church of Steffisburg, depicting him as an Anabaptist martyr**.** Peter was born in Eriz on his family's mountain estate of Schwendi and Eckweid and baptized on 13 July 1656 (K3Stbg331) in the Steffisburg church. When he was about 6 years old, the family moved out of their Eriz estate, which they had to sell under duress in 1662. They settled at some later date in Thierachern, on the other side of lake Thun. On 5 May 1682, at the age of 26, Peter married Magdalena Staer from Gurtzelen, canton Bern, in the Steffisburg church (K15Stbg89). Although the newly weds were not residing in the Steffisburg church district, it was customary in those days to go back to their place of origin for their wedding, especially for those of the Anabaptist faith.

Peter Farni has his name and coat of arms displayed on the Mosestafel in Steffisburg church, like his brother Ulli. Also worth of mention is that next to Peter's shield there can be seen those of two close family members, that of Peter Carli, the father of his brother's wife Anna Carli, and that of Jacob Schneitter, his mother's uncle. Peter and Magdalena had a total of ten children, and the life story of their five sons will be debated briefly under generation six. Several of their sons and their offspring were known Anabaptists and had left Switzerland in the 18th century. No burial data were found on Peter and his wife, which indicates that they had emigrated.

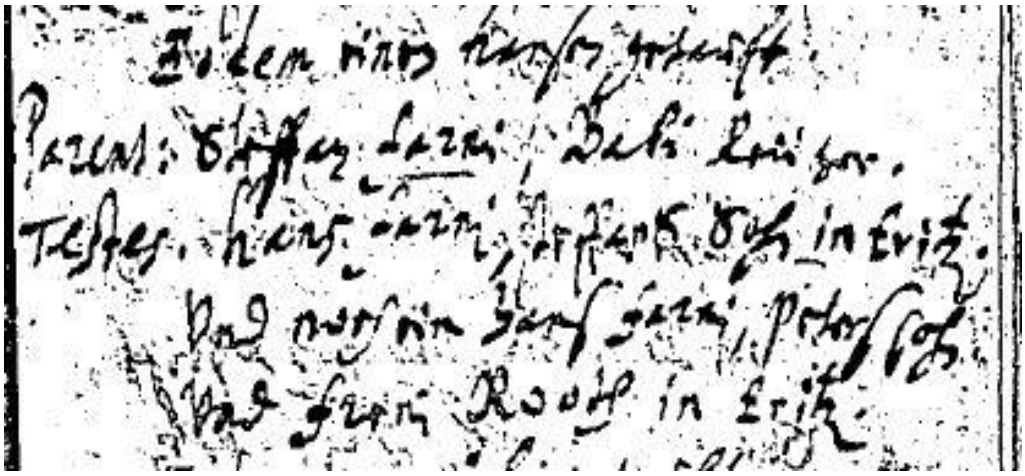


Peter Farni baptism on13 July 1656 in the church of Steffisburg (son of Stephan and Barbara Reusser (K3Stbg331)

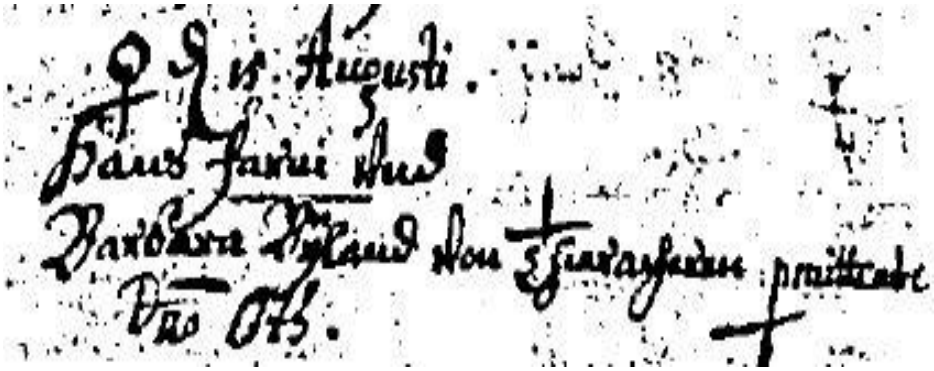


Peter Farni & Magdalena Staer wedding on 5 May 1682 in Steffisburg

Hansen Farni was born in Eriz and baptized on 25 August 1661 in the Steffisburg church (K4Stbg55). On 15 August 1690, in the church of Steffisburg, aged 29, Hansen married Barbara Byland from Thierachern (K15Stbg106). Together, they had seven known children, all born in Thierachern, including four surviving sons, one of whom had descendants who immigrated to the USA. Archived documents of 1708 indicate that Hansen was a schoolteacher in Thierachern. As no burial certificates on Hansen and his wife were found, they probably also emigrated.

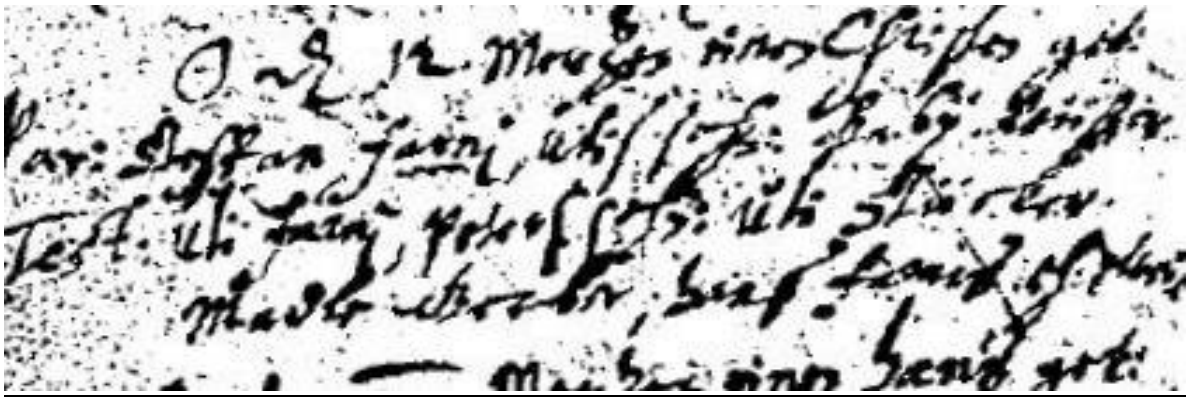


Baptism of Hansen Farni on 25 August 1661 in church of Steffisburg (son of Stephan & Barbara Reusser (K4Stbg44)

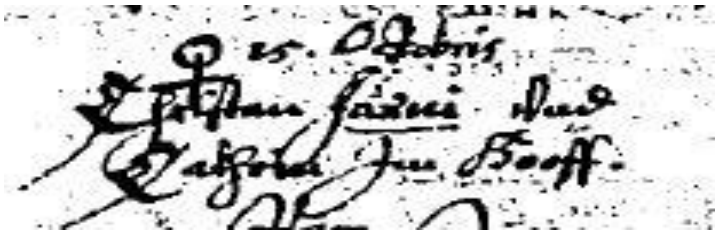


Hansen Farni & Barbara Byland wedding in Steffisburg on 15 August 1690 (K15Stbg106)

Christian Farni is the fifth known son of Stephan and Barbara Reusser. He was born on 12 March 1665 in Switzerland (K4Stbg104). On 15 October 1686, at the age of 21, Christian married Cathrina Im Hoof (K15Stbg99) and this couple had eight children, i.e. six daughters between 1687 and 1695, all born in the Steffisburg district, but no further data was found in the church books. They also had a son, named Christanus, born on 29 January 1699 (K1Schw032 – Schw=Schwarzenegg) without any further information on his life. Their last known son, Johann Jacob Farni, was born on 4 September 1701 in Hatten, Oldenburg district in Lower Saxony, confirming that his father Christian had left Switzerland with his family sometime between 1699 and early 1701 to settle in the North of Germany, near Bremen and Hamburg. The dates of death of Christian and Cathrina are unknown, and it is assumed that they died in Lower Saxony sometime after 1702. As will be seen in the next generations, their grandson Jacob Farni is probably the progenitor of the **Southern Forney line** of Pennsylvania.



Christian Farni baptism in Steffisburg church on 12 March 1665,
son of Stephan and Barbara Reusser (K4Stbg104)

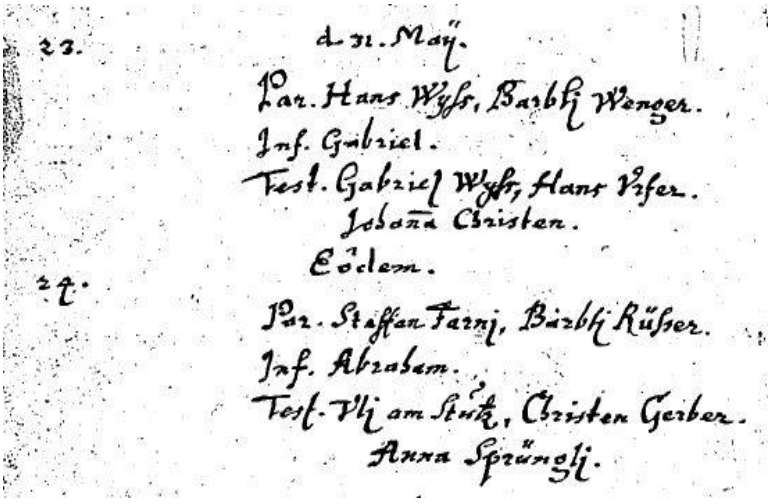


Christian & Cathrina Im Hoof wedding o 15 October 1686
in Steffisburg (K15Stb99)

Abraham Farni was the last son of Stephan and Barbara Reusser. As an active and well known Anabaptist, and more importantly as the progenitor of the **Lancaster County Farni - Forney line**, many researches have been carried out on Abraham's life. Besides the present book based on the Swiss church records, the vital statistics and on the Temple Record Book on the Fahrni Family researched by the Mormon Julius Biletter, there exist several studies on our ancestor's life. The most important writings that helped my research are:
Stammfolge des Abraham Farne, by Peter Scheumann, Koln, Germany;
Swiss Ancestry of Farni-Zimmermann, by Elizabeth Meredith, Houston.
The Family Zimmermann, by Virginia Carpenter
The Pennsylvania Forneys, by David Forney of Newbury Park, CA.

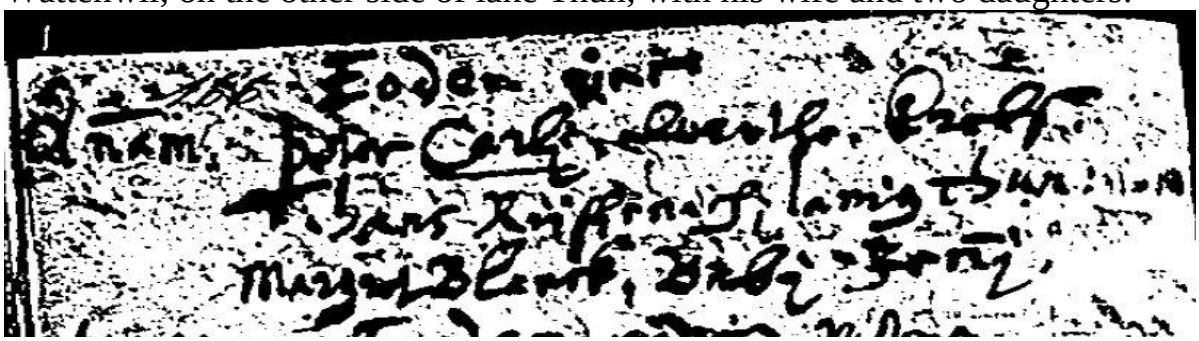
Abraham was baptized on 31st May 1668 in Thierachern (K2Thier226), the region to where his parents moved to six years earlier after the sale of the Schwendi and Eckweid properties in Eriz by the Farni family. Except for the evidence of his birth registration in 1668, no trace of Abraham's existence was found in Thierachern until 25 years later, on 29 Jan. 1693, when he became godfather of the Christen Wyhs - Elsbeth Kisling family's son. As the whereabouts of Abraham's parents are also unknown from the date of his birth in 1668, there is no doubt that the family lived in another region of Switzerland or possibly that they had moved to the Palatinate region.

Abraham Farni baptism on 31 May 1668 in Thierachern
(son of Stephan Farni and Barbara Reusser (K2Thier226

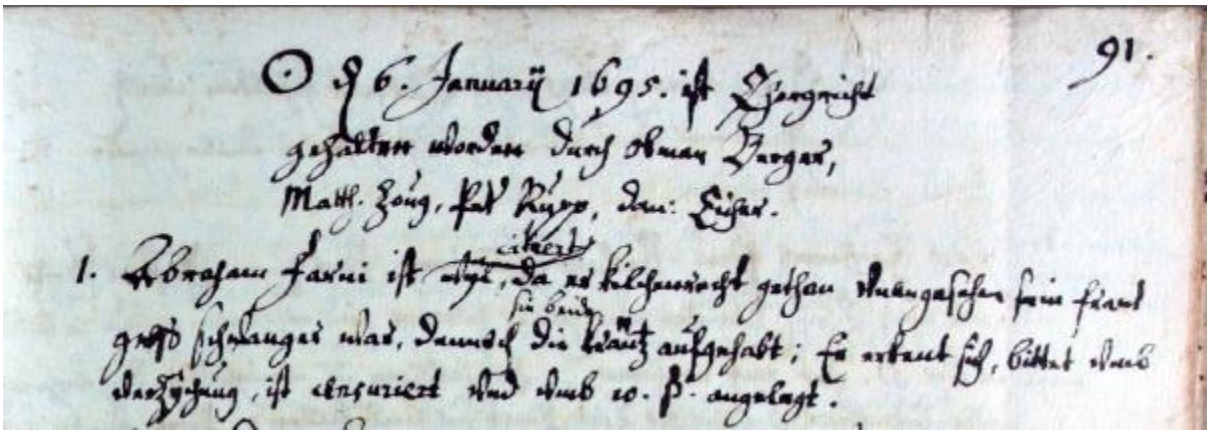

23. d. 31. May.
Par. Hans Wyss, Barbli Wenger.
Inf. Gabriel.
Test. Gabriel Wyss, Hans Vifer.
Johanā Christen.
Eōdem.
24.
Par. Steffan Farnj, Bärbli Rüßer.
Inf. Abraham.
Test. Vli am Stutz, Christen Gerber.
Anna Sprüngli.

Twenty seven year old Abraham Farni re-emerges in Steffisburg with a Church Tribunal document "Chorgericht", dated 6 Jan.1695, blaming him for having wedded Anna Carli wearing a flower crown in church. As his wife Anna was already pregnant at the wedding, it was against church rule and traditions to bear a flower crown during the church ceremony. Their first child Cathrin was baptized on 16 Dec.1694, and the parents may well have married in Steffisburg in the last quarter of 1694. However, as no wedding registration of Abraham and Anna was found in Steffisburg, it may well be that the act was not entered into the church wedding book because of their "Taufer" faith and their wearing flowers in church. Abraham and Anna Carli had a total of 10 known children together, as will be shown later. Anna Carli was baptized on 13 March 1670 in Steffisburg (KStbg166). She was the daughter of Dorothea Krebs and Peter Carli, the Anabaptist with his name and shield on the famous Mosestafel in Steffisburg church.

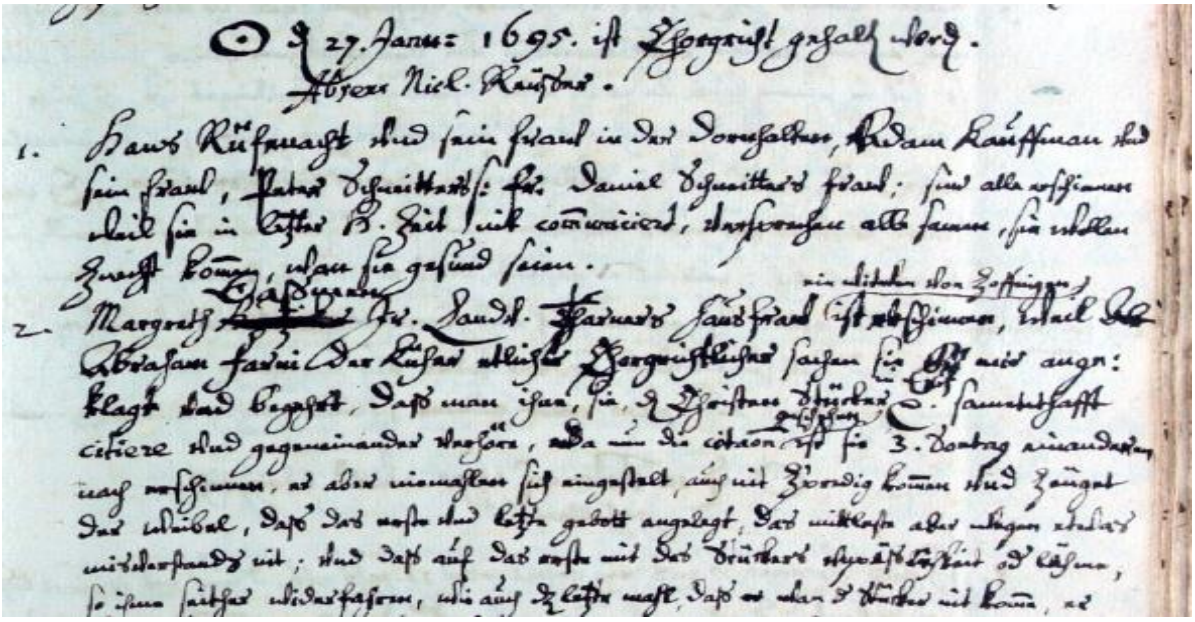
As Abraham's parents and siblings were all of Anabaptist faith, especially his two elder brothers Ulli and Peter with their Farni coat of arms on the Mosestafel since 1682, it was to be expected that the authorities would persecute Abraham whenever they had an opportunity. As can be seen from documents on next page, the Church Tribunal did investigate Abraham again at the end of January of that year for belonging to the illegal Anabaptist faith. There must be many more serious state persecutions on our Taufer ancestor we do not know of, which is probably the reason why Abraham became aware that Steffisburg was not the right place for him to live. Especially considering the historical "Peasant War" leader reputation of his family there. After two years in Steffisburg, Abraham decided to move to Wattenwil, on the other side of lake Thun, with his wife and two daughters.



Anna Carli baptism on 13 March 1670 in Steffisburg (K4Stbg616), daughter of Peter Carli (shield on Mosestafel) and Dorothea Krebs



On 6 Jan.1695, the Chorrichtern (Church Tribunal judges) of Steffisburg accused **Abraham Farni** for having wedded **Anna Carli** both wearing a flower crown during the church ceremony which was against the law as the wife was pregnant.



On 27 January 1695, the Chorgericht (Church Tribunal) investigated **Abraham Farni** who was accused on several instances by Margreth Gassmann to **belong to the Wiedertaufer (Anabaptist) movement**. It was decided that the matter would be judged by the tribunal of Bern.

	Age of Abraham	
1668-1693	**0-25**	Abraham was born in Thierachern, but no trace of his whereabouts were found during the next 25 years
1694-1696	**26-28**	Emerges in Steffisburg, the municipality of his ancestors
Mid.1694	**26**	Abraham married Anna Carli. But no certificate was found
Dec.1694	**26**	Birth of their first child, **Cathrin**, in Steffisburg
Aug.1696	**28**	Birth of their second daughter, **Barbara**, in Steffisburg
1697-1708	**29-40**	Lived in Wattenwil, canton Bern, for 11 years with his family
Dec.1698	**30**	Birth of their first son, **Peter**, in Wattenwil
Oct.1701	**33**	Birth of **Anna** in Wattenwil, who died as a todler
Dec.1703	**35**	Birth of **Anna Eliza** in Wattenwil
Nov.1705	**37**	Birth of **Catharina/Catharne** in Wattenwil
Oct.1706	**38**	Birth of **Christen** in Wattenwil, who died as a todler
Jan.1708	**40**	Birth of **Christian** in Wattenwil
1708-1713	**40-45**	No data available, but this is the time of relocaion to Siegerland, in Prussia (Northern Westphalia) in about 1710.
1714-1716	**46-48**	Lived with family in Siegerland, Prussia
Abt 1714	**46**	Birth of **Suzanna Maria** in Siegerland, but no certificate available
Abt 1716	**48**	Birth of **Maria Magdalena** in Siegerland, but no document found
1717-1718	**49-50**	No data available during this time, but must have lived in Siegerland
1719-1727	**51-59**	Lived in Siegerland, Prussia, with family
1719	**51**	Siegen achives show Abraham as a farmer in Burghholdinghausen
Jan.1720		**Daughter Cathrin marries** Heinrich Wehler in Littfeld, Kreuztal,Siegerland
Mar.1725		**Daughter Anna Eliza marries** Johann Jacob Schutte in Siegerland
Before Sep.1727		Daughter Cathrin divorces from Jost Heinrich Wehler in Siegerland
Sep.1727	**59**	**Abraham sailes to USA** with wife Anna & daughters Cathrin & Barbara, arrival in Philadelphia on SS William & Sarah
Oct.1727		Abraham's two sons, Peter and Christian, sail to Philadelphia, one month after their parents on SS Friendship
Before 1730		**Abraham returns to Siegerland**, but no travel data available
1731-1737	**63-69**	Abraham lived in Siegerland, Prussia
1731	**63**	Siegen archives show Abraham as farmer in Junkernhees, Siegerland
1734	**66**	Siegen archives show Abraham as farmer in Hof Ginsberg, Siegerland
Sep.1734		**Daughter Susanna Maria marries** (Johann ?) Heinrich Zimmermann in Hilchenbach, Siegerland
Sep.1734		Children **Anna Eliza**, **Catharina**, **Suzanna Maria** & **Christian** sail to USA arrival in Philadelhia on SS Hope
Aug.1737	**69**	**Abraham sails to USA with wife for second and last time, arrival on SS Samuel**
After 1737	**69-->**	**Abraham's death is not recorded**
Feb.1747		**Death of Anna Carli in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania**
Jul.1747		**Death of Peter Farni/Forney in Earl Twp, Lancaster Co, PA, husband of Anna Schmid/Smith. Peter was the first son of Abraham and Anna Carli and became the progenitor of the Lancaster County Forney lineage.**

Wattenwil is a small town situated 10 km West of Lake Thun, in canton Bern, and was home to several prominent Anabaptist families from the earliest records. The main Wattenwil Taufer families that can now be found in America are the Zimmermann/Carpenter, the Ruefener/Rufener, the Wenger, the Megert and the Krebs. As had to be expected, these prominent Baptist families were all intermarried before their forced emigration to Pennsylvania in early 18th Century, and remained close once settled in America. Their conviction was very strong that the church should not be a hierarchy of clergy, but rather a community of believers. It was therefore no surprise to find our Abraham and his family settled in Wattenwil as of 1697. He understood that it was important to get closer to people of the same faith in order to find security in numbers.

Abraham and Anna Carli had, according to the Parish records, a total of six children during their eleven years of residence in Wattenwil. As Abraham Farni was senior by five years with Heinrich Zimmermann (Rufener), the man who travelled for the first time to Pennsylvania in 1698, the two must have met regularly during their religious gatherings. And almost certainly their main topic of discussion was the increasing hostility towards the Anabaptists in Switzerland and where to emigrate to for a better life and freedom of religion. As already related before in this chapter, government repression of Anabaptism intensified towards the end of the 17th century (Abraham's elder brother Ulli was deported to Mannhein in 1710 with his family), and people started considering and planning their future abroad.

Understandably, for that period, America was still a very far away and unknown country to emigrate to. Many Taufers therefore considered a place nearer to home, such as the regions of what is now known as Germany, particularly the Palatinate, the Lower Saxony and Westfalen in Prussia.

The region of Prussia suffered numerous invasions and destructions by the invading French armies in various periods of warfare, especially during the Thirty Years' War of 17th century. With relative peace emerging, the noblemen of the duchies and principalities of the Northern Rhine Province of Prussia felt a great need to re-develop their agriculture and increase food production.

Abraham Farni's moves to Prussia

As the Swiss Baptists had a reputation for being hardworking farmers with great diligence and a good social behavior, many of our persecuted Taufers were welcome to settle in those territories. Like the Palatinate, the Northern Rhine Province (now Westfalen-Westphalia) had, at that time, no dominant religion as Catholics and Lutherans faiths were divided almost equally. As a result, the ruling Princes showed a certain tolerance towards the Baptists.

It is therefore no surprise that - like his elder brother Ulli who was expelled to the Palatinate in March 1710 - Abraham sailed North down the Rhine river with his family some time before or after that date. The hope for a better life and religious freedom was the prime motivation to leave their country of Switzerland. We have also evidence of another deportation of refugees in 1711, on SS Niewenburger, of 346 Swiss Anabaptists. Among these refugees was seven years old Anna Schmid from Frutigen, who would later marry Peter Farni, Abraham's first son and genitor of the Lancaster County Farni-Forney lineage. Were the Abraham family and the Schmid family together on the same boat when leaving Switzerland? We will probably never know.

What we can assume, however, is that Abraham Farni left the Rhine ship in Koln and then moved East probably on a horse-drawn cart up to Kreuztal in Siegerland. It is estimated that the Abraham family lived in the Siegertal, Northern Westphalia, then Prussia, for at least 17 years during their first spell abroad (approx.1710 to 1727). The births of their last two daughters took place in Siegertal, namely Suzanna Maria in about 1714 and Maria Magdalena in 1716 approximately. In addition, a 1720 document of the municipality of **Burgholdinghausen**, North of Kreuztal, indicates that our Abraham Farni was running a farming estate there, rented from a local prince. We also have evidence that two of their daughters born in Switzerland married in Prussia, namely Cathrin on 11 January, 1720, in Littfeld and Anna Eliza, on 3 March 1725 in Musenershutten in Siegen.

In mid 1727, aged 59, Abraham sailed to Pennsylvania, with his wife Anna and two of his daughters, most certainly Cathrin recently divorced in Siegertal and Barbara still unmarried. They arrived in Philadelphia on 18th September of that year on SS William and Sarah, with all their possession to start a new life in America. This must have been Abraham's first visit to America, and the family was most probably met by their old friends from Wattenwil, such as the Zimmermanns already established in Germantown. Upon arrival, most Swiss people would settle first in Germantown, before moving on to Lancaster County. Several generations of Forney owned land and made their home in Lancaster county, which is the reason why David Forney, the researcher of this line, named it the Lancaster County Line. Not surprisingly, one month later, on 15 October 1727, Abraham's two sons Peter and Christian also arrived in Philadelphia, which indicates that this was a well-planned move of the family to settle in the new country.

The date of Abraham's return to Prussia is not known, but he must have stayed in Pennsylvania for a period of one to two years, the time to purchase suitable land in Lancaster County and to help the family to settle. According to available records, one could purchase 1000 acres of land for about five thousand dollars. As his elder son Peter Farni/Forney was then 30 years old and would marry one year later in Lancaster county, he was put in charge of the family business. It is therefore assumed that Abraham returned to Prussia before 1730 with his wife Anna, living his son Peter and the two daughters behind in Lancaster. The second son Christian sailed back to Europe at an unspecified date but we see his return to Philadelphia in 1734.

According to legislation in Pennsylvania, all immigrants had to take the oath of allegiance to King George II and to anglicize their name upon arrival. The members of Zimmermann families already in the country became the Carpenters, and the Farni became Forney, with some phonetic variances like Furney, Furnee, Farny and Farnie. The first generations of immigrants carried the dual names, hence the spelling confusions in official documents. There is also evidence that some descendants of Farni, who became Forney upon arrival, did at some later date change their patronymic to Fahrni (Swiss spelling as of 19th century) or to Farney or Fahrney.

Abraham Farni's return to Prussia

It is assumed that Abraham Farni returned to Prussia at around 1730. We have the following documents proving our ancestor's presence in Siegertal during his second journey there, namely in the 1731 archives from the town of Siegen showing Abraham as a farmer in Junkernhees, a village West of Kreuztal. Another document dated 1734 from the Siegen town archives shows Abraham as a farmer in Hof Ginsberg. In addition, his daughter Susanna Maria marries Johann Heinrich Zimmermann on 16 May 1734 in Hilchenbach, in Siegertal (aka Heinrich Zimmermann from Wattenwil).

Four and maybe all five of the Abraham-Anna Carli's children still in Europe arrived on 23rd September 1734 in Philadelphia port with SS Hope. These were :
Christian, the son who had already travelled to Lancaster county in1727;
Catharina, probably with husband and her 3 children born in Siegerland;
Anna Eliza, probably with husband she married in Siegerland in 1725;
Suzanna Maria, with husband Dr. Carpenter she married in Siegerland;

Maria Magdalena, is reported to have arrived in America before her wedding of 1736 in Pequa Twp. to Daniel Carpenter. It is therefore likely that Maria Magdalena was also part of the above September 1734 arrival with her siblings, but she was not found in the passenger lists.

In any case, we are confident that by September 1734 all eight surviving children of Abraham and Anna were settled in Pennsylvania, and their life story will be related later. It took Abraham Farni and his wife Anna another 7 years, until 1737, to clean up their affairs in Prussia and prepare for the final departure for retirement near their children in America. The journey from Europe to Pennsylvania would take between two to three months, and their return to Philadelphia is recorded on the ship SS Samuel that arrived on 30 August 1737. It goes without saying that the conditions on the ship would be considered unacceptable today. Passengers had to bring their food for this long voyage and drinking water was often in short supply. Abraham was 69 years old and most certainly very tired and his wife Anna of 43 years was barely two years younger than him.

The last record of Abraham Farni/Forney is his oath of allegiance to the King upon arrival in August 1737, but no record of his death could be found in Pennsylvania.

The death of Abraham's wife, Anna Forney/Carli, is recorded with a Will Abstract of July1747 in the name of **"Ann Furnee"** with as administrators :
Christian Farni/Forney (son of the deceased);
Christian Oblinger (husband of Barbara Forney, grandchild of deceased).

Dr Henry Carpenter (husband of Suzanna Maria and daughter of deceased) was the co-executor of Anna Forney's estate and administrator of the goods and chattels settled before the Deputy Register as follows:
- Double share to heirs of Peter Forney, deceased in July 1747;
- One share each to remaining children, namely Barbara, Anna Eliza, Catharina, Christian, Susanna Maria and Maria Magdalena.

The distribution of the estate was recorded in Miscellaneous book 1742-1767:1:31, located at the Archives Division of the Lancaster County Courthouse. Some clarifications are needed regarding the administration of Ann Furnee's (Anna Farni-Carli) estate;
According to English Common Law in force until after the American Revolution, in case there was no Will in estate settlements the eldest son (in the present case his heirs, as Peter was deceased) would receive a double share.

It is not known why only Barbara and Suzanna were listed as "wife of…", as all the other siblings were also married. The law specified also, at that time, that women were not allowed to own property; therefore, inheritance would go directly to their husband. The only child missing in this settlement is Cathrin Farni – Wehler, born in 1694, as she must have died before 1747.

THE LANCASTER FARNI - FORNEY LINEAGE

GENERATION 6 | GENERATION 7

Cathrin Farni Jost Henrich Wehler
~ 16 Dec.1694, in Steffisburg, c. Bern ~ 11 Jun.1695 Littfeld Siegertal, Prussia
oo 11 Jan.1720 Littfeld/Kreuztal
T. <--1747 **divorced** <-- 1727 in Kreuztal
Arrived at Philadelphia port on 18th Sept. 1727 on SS William & Sarah with parents

Barbara Farni Georges Miley
~ 9.Aug.1696, Steffisburg, canton Bern, Switzerland **oo** 1727 --> Lancaster Co.
Arrived at Philadelphia port on 18th Sept. 1727 on SS William & Sarah with parents
T. 1747 -->

Peter Farni/Forney Anna Schmid/Smith
~ 14 Dec.1698 in Wattenwil, cant.Bern ~ 3 Apr.1704 Frutigen Switzerland
Arrived at Philadelphia port 15 Oct.1727 onSS Friendship with his brother Christian
oo 1728 Lancaster County PA
T. Jul.1747 Earl Twp, Lancaster **T**.Feb. 1753

Progenitor of the Lancaster County Forney Lineage

Anna Farni ~ 2 Oct.1701 Wattenw. **T.**1703

Anna Eliza Farni Johan Jacob Schutte
~ 9.Dec.1703 in Wattenwil, cant.Bern ~ 18 Nov.1699 in Musenershutten.
oo 3 Mar.1725, Musenershutten, Siegen
T. Feb.1747 --> Siegerland, Prussia
Arrived in Philadelphia Port on 23 Sept. 1734 on ss Hope with borther & 2 sisters

Catharina/Catharne Farni Joseph Schurch
~ 16 Nov.1705 in Wattenwil, canton Bern ~ 1700
oo 1727 in Siegerland
Arrived in Philadelphia Port on 23 Sep. 1734 on ss Hope with brother & 2 sisters
T. Feb.1747 --> Lancaster Co **T.** 1770

Christen Farni ~ 20 Oct.1706 Watt. **T.**1708

Christian Farni/Forney AnnaMargret Hertz
~ 29.Jan.1708 in Wattenwill, canton Bern, Switzerland ~6.Sep.1711 Hilchenbach, Siegerland
oo 21 Dec.1734 in Lanc.
Arrived in Philadelphia Port on 15 Oct. 1727 on SS Friendship with his brother
Arrived in Philadelphia Port on 23 Sep. 1734 on SS Hope with three sisters.
T. August 1757 Warwick Twp, LancasterCo

Suzanna Maria Farni (Joh.)Heinrich Zimmermann
~Abt 1714 Siegerland (Aka Dr Heny Carpenter) in Prussia ~ 9 Aug.1713 Germantown,
oo 16 May.1734 Hilchenbach, Siegerland
Arrived in Philadelphia Port on 23 Sep. 1734 on ss Hope with brother & 2 sisters
T. 14 Dec.1785 Earl **T.** 17 Apr.1773 Earl Twp

Maria Magdalena Farni Daniel Carpenter
~Abt 1716 Siegerland in Prussia ~ 1716 Germantown Philadelphia Co
< -- 1736 Emigrated to USA
oo 1736 Pequa Twp Lancaster C
T. 1776 Lampeter Twp **T.** 1764 Lampeter

Peter Farni

Barbara Forney Christian Oblinger — 2 children
~ Abt 1728 Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania ~ 1714 in Warwick
oo 1747 **T.** 27 Dec.1790
T 1801 --> Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Forney & Anna Schmid

Abraham Forney Elizabeth Spurgeon — 7 children
~ 23 Jan.1729 Earl Twp, Lancaster County
oo 1756 Lancaster County
Founder of Forney village, later Hinkletown
T. 23 Nov.1784 in Earl Twp, Lancaster C **Innkeeper of Forney's Tavern**

Peter Forney Barbara Eby — 8 children
~ Abt 1730 Lancaster County
T 1798 Harrisberg, Pennsylvania

Anna Forney Jacob Kern
~ Abt 1734 Lancaster C.
T … Reading, York County,PA

Smith

Susannah Forney
~ Abt 1738 Lancaster C.
T. 5 Oct.1822 Strausberg PA

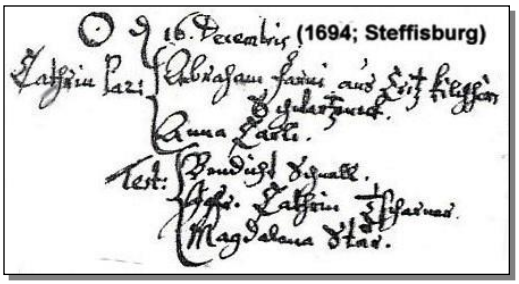
Maria Forney Jacob Carpenter
~ Abt 1741 Earl Twp ~ 6 Feb.1741
oo 1764 Lancaster County
T. 5 Apr.1790 --> in Earl Twp **T.** 1797

	Barbara Schurch ~ 1727 oo Christian Martin
Catharina & Joseph Schurch	John Schurch ~ 1729 oo Barbara Scheidam
	Catherine Schurch ~ 1732 oo Martin Huber
	Joseph Sherk ~ Dec.1734 oo Susan Strickler
Joseph Sherk	Jacob Sherk ~ 1736 oo Marg. Lichty
	Mary Shirk ~ 1737 oo Christian Erb
	Martha Shirk ~1740 oo Jacob Strickler
	Anna Shirk ~ 1742 oo Joh Herr

Christian Farni	Anna Salome Farni ~ 22 Oct.1735
	Maria Magdalena Farni ~ 28 Jun.1737
Forney & Anna	Maria Elizabetha Farni ~ 23 Apr.1739
	Catharine Louisa Farni ~ 8 Jan.1743
Margaret Hertz	Anna Catharina Farni ~ 21 Mar.1745
	Anna Margaretha Farni ~ 20 May 1747

Suzanna	Salome Carpenter oo John Offner
Maria	Barbara Carpenter oo Jacob DeHoff
Farni &	John Carpenter ~ 1 May 1737
Dr Henry	Susan Carpenter ~ 11 Jan.1738
Carpenter	Henry Carpenter ~ 10 Nov.1747
Zimmer-	Mary Carpenter ~ 12 Sep.1753
mann	Abraham Carpenter ~ 1754 oo Esther Hafer

Maria	Mary Carpenter ~ 1738 oo Jeremiah Richards
Magda-	Christian Carpenter ~ 1740 oo Christina Christ
lena	Susannah Carpenter ~ 1742 Lancaster Co
Farni &	Daniel Carpenter ~ 26 Sep.1749
Daniel	Elizabeth Carpenter ~ 1752 oo Curtis Grubb
Carpenter	Salome S.Carpenter ~ 1753 Lampeter Twp
Zimmer-	John Carpenter ~ 1754
mann	Benjamen Carpenter ~ 1756

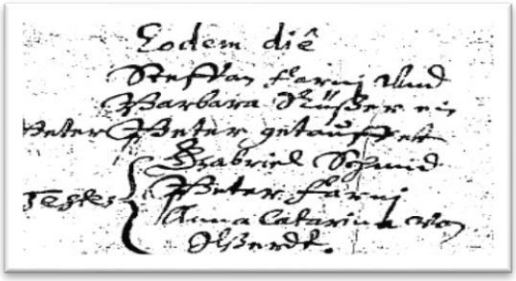


Cathrin Farni was baptized on 16 Dec.1694 in the Steffisburg church. Her god-mother was her aunt Magdalena Staer. The church archives of Littfeld, near Kreuztal in Siegerland dated 11 Jan.1720 show that a 26-year-old Cathrin Farni marries Jost Heinrich Wehler, born in Prussia in 1695. This is the time when Cathrin's parents lived in Siegerland.

Cathrin is assumed to have belonged to the four passengers accompanying Abraham Farni when entering Philadelphia on 18 Sep.1727. As J.H. Wehler marries for a second time in 1730 in Krombach, Siegerland, it is assumed that Cathrin divorced sometime before her departure to America. As Cathrin's name does not appear on her mother's Will Abstract of 1747, she must have deceased before that date.



Barbara Farni was baptized on 9 Aug. 1696 in the Steffisburg church. Her god-mother was Barbara Biland, wife of her father's brother Hansen Farni. Barbara most certainly lived with her parents in Siegerland but no trace of her was found there. She is assumed to have belonged to the party of four passengers accompanying Abraham when reaching Philadelphia on 18 September 1727 on William & Sarah. Barbara is named in her mother's Will Abstract of 1747 as wife of Georges Miley, so she must have married after her arrival in USA in 1727, although no wedding or births records of children were found.

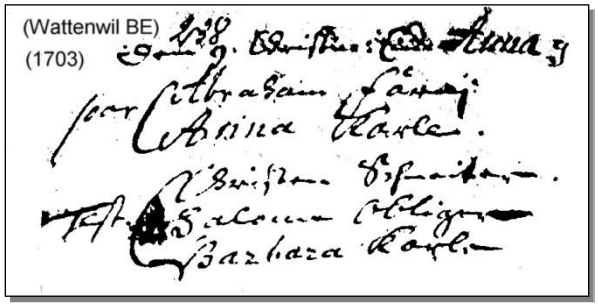


Peter Farni was baptized on 14 Dec.1698 in the church of Wattenwil. His godfather was his uncle, Peter Farni the Anabaptist. At the young age of about 12, Peter sailed down the Rhine river as a refugee with his parents and two sisters, en route to Siegerland, in Prussia, where he would spend his youth until 1727. At about the same 1711 period, a seven year old girl named Anna Schmid, who would become Peter's wife later in Pennsylvania, was also being expelled down the Rhine river with her brother and parents as Swiss Anabaptists.

There is evidence showing that, in 1711, Hans and Elsbeth Schmid from Frutigen and their two young children were deported on SS Niewenburger to Kampen in the Netherland together with 342 other Taufer refugees. It is remarkably well documented that Anna's brother, Peter Schmid, born on 9 March 1702, took as wife a Miss Stucki in Groeningen, in the Netherland, in 1725. The above is reasonable proof that the Schmid family pursued their voyage North, unlike the Abraham Farni family who moved East to Siegerland.

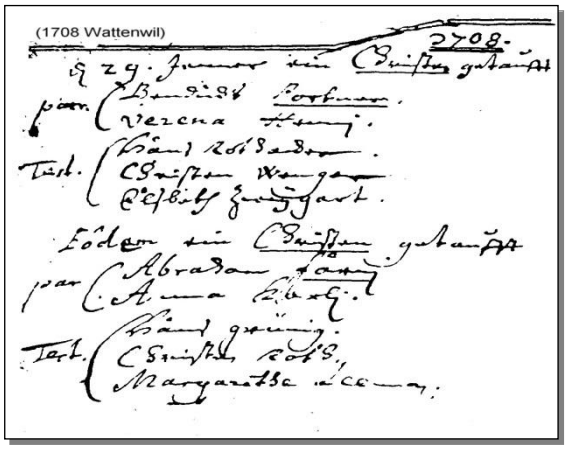
We know that Peter Farni arrived at Philadelphia port on 15 October 1727 together with his brother Christian. As Peter Schmid also immigrated to the USA, he must have done so after his 1725 wedding in the Netherland. Most probably Peter Schmid travelled to the USA with his wife and his parents and his sister Anna. By all accounts, it makes sense to accept the reported wedding time and place of Peter Farni-Forney and Anna Schmid-Smith as 1728 in Lancaster. These two Anabaptist teenager refugees are the progenitors of the famous **Lancaster County Forney Lineage.**

Peter Farni-Forney and Anna Schmid-Smith had a total of six children, two sons and four girls, and they all married well into the Swiss Baptist families of Lancaster County. Peter Forney died in Earl Twp. at the age of 49, as he was reported as deceased at the Will Abstract reading of his mother Anna Forney-Carli in July 1747. On 1st March, 1747, the Lancaster Co Orphans' Court appointed guardians for their six children (the last four children were minors). Anna Forney-Smith died towards the end of 1752, also 49 years old, and the Will Extract is in the name of Ann Farney dated 6 March 1753. The executors of the will were Christian Oblinger, son in law, and Christian Farni, brother in law. In those days, as can be seen above, the average family raised more than six offspring to adult hood, but lifespans were still short with Peter, Anna and Christian all dying at the age of 49.


(Wattenwil BE) (1703)

Anna Eliza Farni was baptized on 9 Dec. 1703 in the church of Wattenwil. As per tradition, the priest did not register the second Christian name "Eliza" in the baptismal records. The child's godmother was Barbara Karle, probably the sister of Anna Carli, her mother. At the age of about seven, Anna Eliza sails down the Rhine River as Anabaptist refugee with her parents and siblings to settle in Siegerland. Parish records of Musenershutten in Siegerland, dated 3 March 1725, indicate that Anna Eliza Farni was married to Johann Jacob Schutte, born on 18 Nov.1699 in Siegen. No children of that union were found, and it cannot be determined whether her husband accompanied Anna Eliza to the USA on SS Hope on 23 Sep.1734. Anna Eliza is named as an inheritor in her mother's Will Abstract, which means that she must have died after 1747.

Catharina Farni (aka Catharne) was baptized on 16 Nov.1705 in the church of Wattenwil. She lived in Siegerland, Prussia, with her parents and siblings until her immigration to Philadelphia on 23 Sept.1734, possibly with her husband and her three children. Her husband Joseph Schurch (Sherk) was a well-known elder in the Mennonite congregation of Hempfield Township in Lancaster County. In his Will, proved on 4 Aug.1770, the Orphan Court Records of Lancaster County has listed the surviving children of the Catharina-Joseph Schurch couple. As the first three children were born prior to Catharina's arrival in the USA, there can be no doubt that Joseph Schurch and Catharina/Catharne Farni married in around 1727 in Siegerland. Catharina was listed in her mother's Will Abstract of 1747, indicating that she died after that date.


(1708 Wattenwil)

Christian Farni was baptized on 29 January 1708 in the district church of Wattenwill. He was the last child of the Abraham-Anna Carli couple born in Switzerland before they fled the persecution of Switzerland to settle in Siegerland, Nordrhein-Westfalen in Prussia. Later, Christian seemed to have been quite actively involved in the logistics of moving the Farni family from Prussia to America. His first trip to Pennsylvania was with his brother Peter, in October 1727, one month after his parents and two sisters. We know Christian returned to Prussia at some later time, as he was part, subsequently, of the remaining family relocation that arrived in Philadelphia on 23 Sept. 1734. His future wife Anna Margret Hertz was born on 6 Sept.1711 in Hilchenbach, Siegerland. Christian and Anna Margret married on 21 December 1734 in Lancaster County, which was barely three months after their arrival in the USA.

The Christian Farni-Hertz couple had a total of six children, all girls, between 1735 and 1747. Christian was on the inheritors' list in the Will Abstract dated February 1747 of his mother Anna Farni-Carli. Christian died in August 1757 and his gravestone is situated in the Forney Cemetery of Warwick Township.

Suzanna Maria Farni, was born in about 1714 in Siegerland, as we know for certain that her parents Abraham and Anna Carli lived and worked there from about 1710 to mid-1727. The first official traces of Suzanna Maria are the 16th May 1734, when she marries, according to the Hilchenbach in Siegerland church records, a Johann Heinrich Zimmermann born on 9 August 1713 in Germantown, Philadelphia County.

The Hilchenbach wedding record indicate that Johann Heinrich Zimmermann was a businessman in Philadelphia, with the family originating from Wattenwill. The US data show him as Heinrich Zimmermann or Dr. Henry Carpenter, and it is an established fact that he was the son of Heinrich Zimmermann and Maria (Salome) Rufener, who first moved from Wattenwill to the USA in 1698. According to other sources, Dr. Henry Carpenter left the USA to study medicine in Switzerland, and brought back the Farni family to Philadelphia on 23 September 1734, just before marrying our Suzanna Maria Farni. Suzanna Maria and Dr. Henry Carpenter had seven offspring who perpetuated the well-known Carpenter lineage in America. Dr. Henry Carpenter was the co-executor of Anna Forney-Carli's Will. Suzanna Maria Carpenter has her tombstone in the Carpenter Cemetery of West Earl Township with the date of 1785.

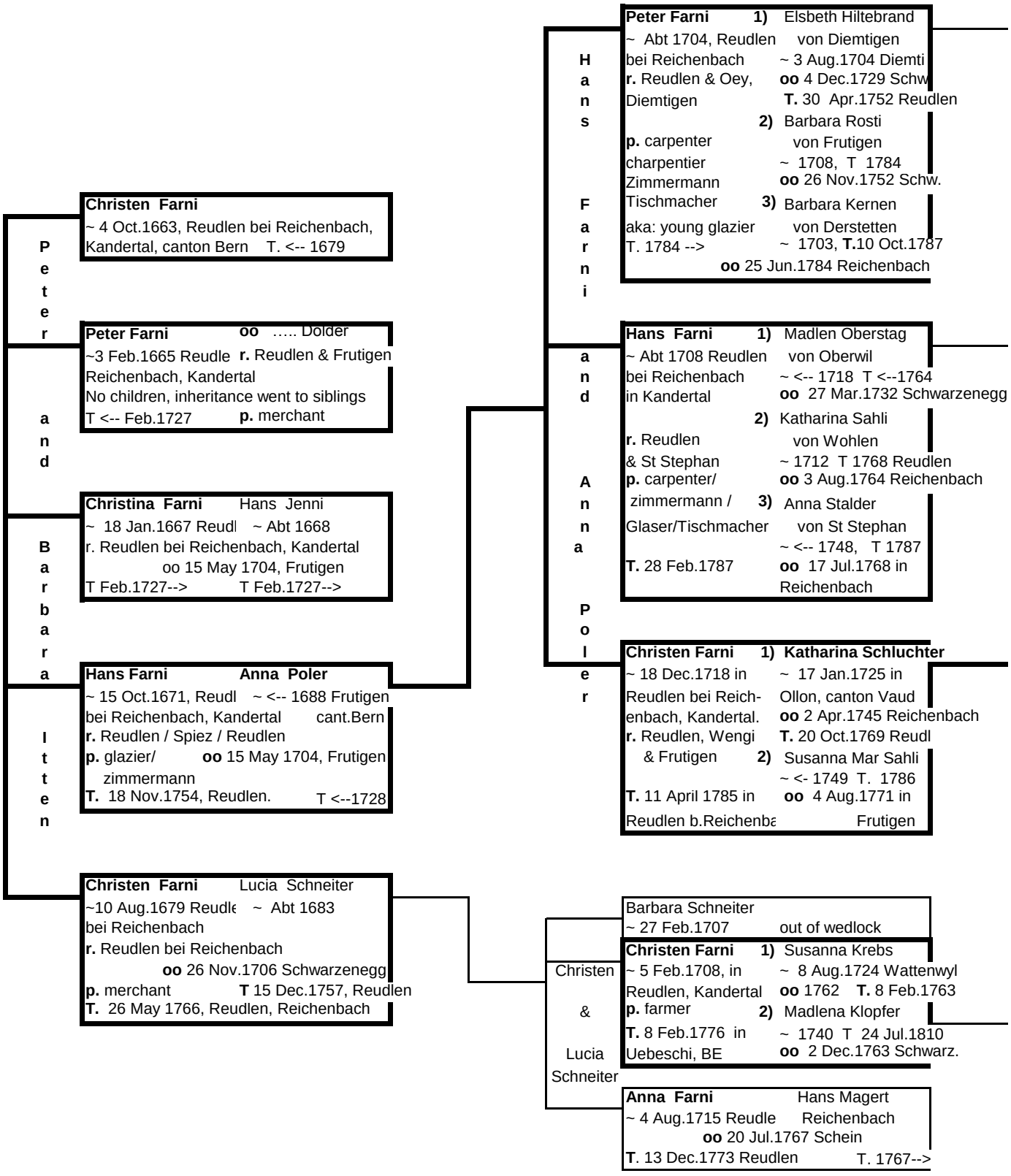
Maria Magdalena Farni was the last known child of the Abraham Farni & Anna Carli family. Like her sister Suzanna, Maria Magdalena was also born in Siegerland, in about 1716. Unfortunately, few traces of her are available in Prussia, with the exception of an official population survey document, dated 28 June 1733, naming her as being the daughter of Abraham Farni, farmer in Ginsberg.

And four years later, a baptism certificate, dated July 1737, indicates that 21-year-old Maria Magdalena Farni was godmother to her niece – who was bearing the exact same name as her - i.e. Maria Magdalena Farni, born on 28 June 1737 in Lancaster County to her brother Christian and to Anna Margaret Hertz. If anything, this is proof that the first generation Farni members maintained close family ties.

Although Maria Magdalena‘s name could not be found on the “SS Hope” passenger list that arrived at Philadelphia port on 23 September 1734, there can be no doubt that she had immigrated with the rest of the family on that ship.

Maria Magdalena Farni married Daniel Carpenter, the brother of Dr. Henry Carpenter who was the husband of her sister Suzanna. It was quite common, in those days, that newly arrived Anabaptist immigrants lived in closely-knit communities, resulting in marriages within the group. Daniel Carpenter was also born in Germantown, Philadelphia County, three years after his brother. No documents are available on the Daniel Carpenter-Maria Magdalena Farni wedding; all we know is that they lived in the Pequa township, Lancaster County, and that the union must have taken place in around 1737 based on the birthdate of their first child. Together, they had a total of eight children, most of whom contributed to the perpetuation of the well-known Carpenter family lineage. Maria Magdalena was on the list of inheritors in the Will of her mother Anna Farni-Carli. Maria Magdalena died in 1776 in Lampeter Township.

THE PROTESTANT FARNI LINEAGE



The protestant Farni lineage

Unlike our Anabaptist cousins of generation five, who were all forced to emigrate to the German territories with some later moving to the USA, we will now be describing the lives of our direct lineage, the protestant Farni ancestors, most of whom having stayed in Switzerland.

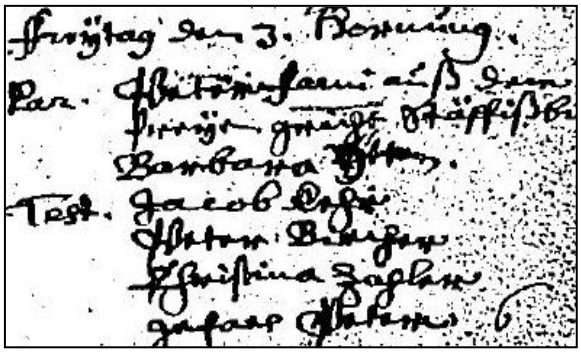
The children of Peter Farni and Barbara Itten were the first generation to be born in Reudlen, near Reichenbach, in Kandertal, located on the other side of Lake Thun. As mentioned in generation four, our ancestral Farni family was expelled from the Steffisburg region due to their involvement in the 1653 Peasant War and to their Anabaptist activities. Our Farni family clan had lived in the Eriz valley for five generations or about 160 years. They had owned their Schwendi mountain for over 70 years before being forced out of the region by the Bernese authorities in 1662.

In 17th century, Reudlen was an amalgamation of farmhouses scattered on the left flank of the valley of the Kander River, faraway from urban life that existed further down, near Lake Thun. Today, this wonderful panorama has not much changed with the exception that the farmhouses are now mostly residential houses and holiday villas. Reudlen is located opposite the village and church district of Reichenbach, encircled on each flank by snowcapped peaks of over 2000 meters high. Nowadays, this region is considered as an untouched natural paradise and is attracting international tourists from all over. Moreover, the spectacular and thundering Waterfalls of Reichenbach had made the greatest impression on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and made him chose this very location as the settings of his last novel for the ultimate death of Sherlock Holmes.

But our ancestors did most certainly not move to this region because of its beautiful landscapes, stretching all the way from the town of Thun to the now internationally renowned Kandersteg resort. In those days, it was the availability of fertile land and a friendly political environment that satisfied the prerequisite of Peter Farni to move to this wild and mountainous region.

Christen Farni was the first child of the Peter Farni-Itten couple and belonged to the first generation of our line to be born outside of Eriz. He was born in Reudlen and baptized on 4th October 1663 in the district church of Reichenbach (K3Rb273). As a second Christen was born in the family later, this first child must have died some time before 1679.

Peter Farni was born in Reudlen and christened on 3rd February 1665 in the district church of Reichenbach (K3Rb279). No wedding documents could be found in Reichenbach, although some legal papers dated 1701 indicate that Peter had a brother in law named Hans Dolder. If Peter had married a miss Dolder, it must have been in another district and they do not seem to have had any children as only Peter's siblings inherited his land and property at his death in 1727. Peter was living outside of the district of Reichenbach since at least 1713, as that year his brother Hans signed a land exchange contract "in the name of my brother Peter". Several documents mention that Peter was a merchant. Peter most probably died in Reudlen, his hometown, but his death could not be registered as the burial church books of Reichenbach were introduced one year later, in 1728.



Peter Farni baptism on 3 Feb.1665

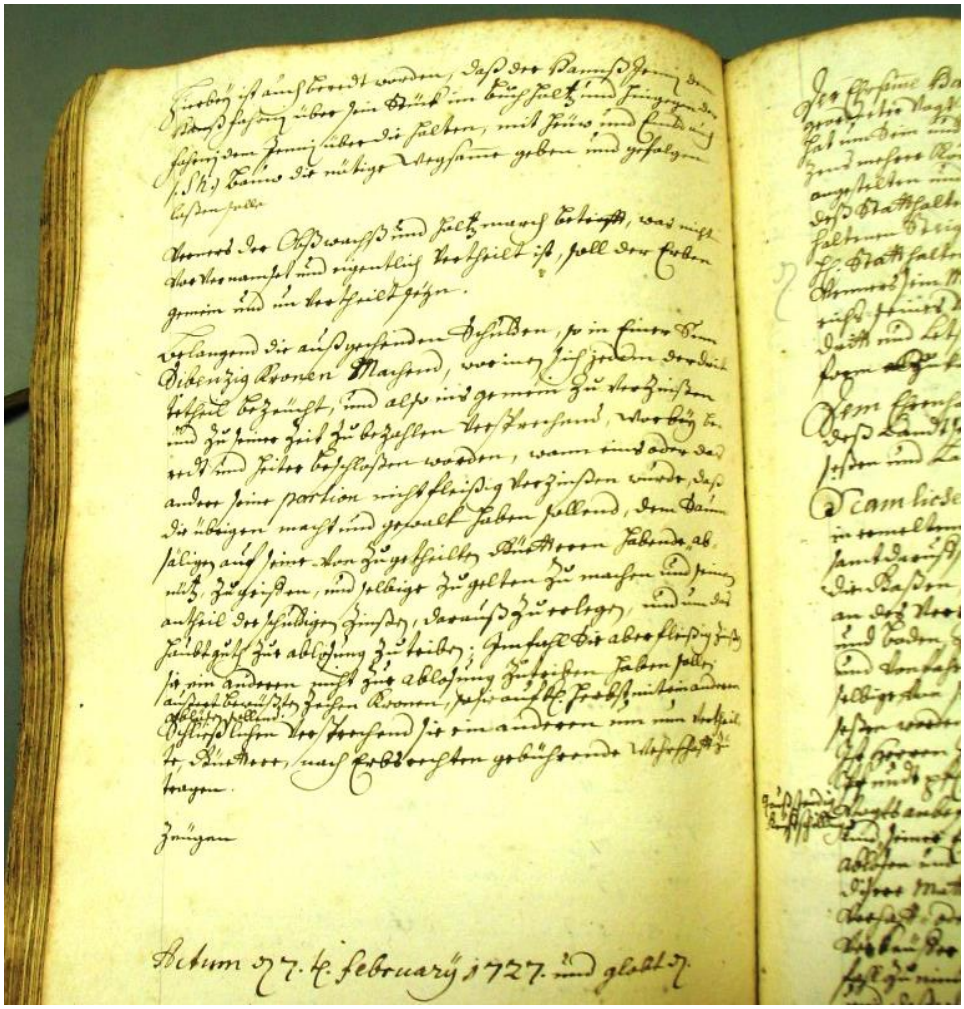
A great number of legal documents are available, depicting Peter's life and deeds as below:

25 September 1700; Peter Farni, then 35 years old, was seen dancing at night in the Ayen forest, near Reudlen, in the company of the young Barbara Kunzi. For this illegal behaviour, the Consistory, or church tribunal, imposed a fine to both of them. (Chorgerichtsmanual.Rb.volume4).

13 March 1701; Peter Farni, resident in Reudlen and originating from the church district of Steffisburg, having as guarantor his brother in law Hans Dolder residing also in Reudlen, acknowledges to have a debt towards Steffan Brugger amounting to Kronen.200.- (current Sfr.50'000.-).
Peter pledges to refund with interest the totality of this sum and gives as security his house and surrounding land (BezFrutigenA120/379).

26 November 1713; Hans Farni, in the name of his brother Peter Farni, negotiates an exchange of property with Hans Graf, resident in Aeschi, as follows: Peter Farni gives Hans Graf a pasture land Weydli in **Wengi,** near Frutigen, and in exchange Hans Graf gives Peter Farni an Alpine sheep pastureland in the **Fromberg** mountains (StAB Bez-FrutigenA222/344).

7 February 1727; Following the death at the age of 62 of Peter Farni, his surviving brothers Hans Farni-Poler and Christian Farni-Schneiter as well as Hans Jenni, husband of Peter's sister Christina, inherited in equal parts the land and property below:



Peter Farni inheritance document ((StAB Bez-FrutigenA224).

This is a continuation of page 100, detailing the distribution of assets:

- A grazing pasture in **Buochholz**, near Reudlen, with stables and granary store houses;

- A land and forest in **Halten,** near Reudlen, with stables and hay stores;

- The main Farni house in **Reudlen** with adjacent grazing land named **Buchholzmatte** with all fruit trees and forest and stables;

- A grazing pastureland named **Dorni** in the village of Ey.

In return, the three heirs agreed to repay the debts of Peter Farni amounting to Krone.70.- (current Sfr.16'000.-). (StAB Bez-FrutigenA224).

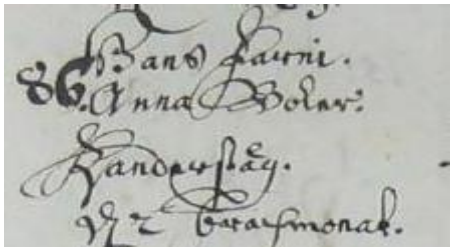
Christina Farni was born in Reudlen and baptised on 18th January 1667 in the district church of Reichenbach (K3Rb290). The godfather of Christina was none other than the Mayor of Thun, Mr Jacob Jenner. As Christina's grandfather, Ulrich Farni, sold five years earlier part of the Eriz estate to a previous Mayor of Thun (see generation 3), there can be no doubt that the Farni family still had strong political contacts in the region.

On 15th May 1704, aged 37, Christina married Hans Jenni, also from Reudlen, in the nearby town of Frutigen (K6Fr5). Given her age at the wedding, it is reasonable to presume that Christina was married before. Christina married on the same day and in the same church as her brother Hans below. No research was undertaken to find the possible children of Christina and Hans Jenni. We could not find a death certificate for Christina; however, as she appears with her husband on the inheritance document of her brother Peter, it confirms that she died after 1727.

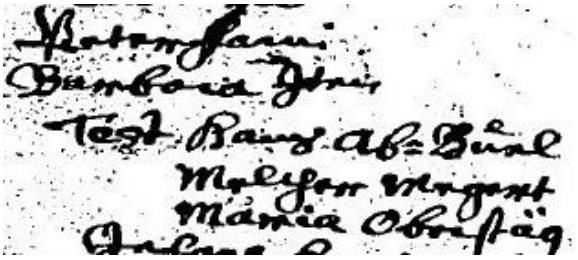
Hans Farni carried forward our Fahrni lineage of Switzerland as well as that of the New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrney line of USA. Hans was born in Reudlen and christened on 15th October 1671 in the district church of Reichenbach (K4Rb122). His godfather was Mr Hans Stauffer, Head of the District Council. At the age of 33, on 15th May 1704, Hans married Anna Poler in Frutigen (K6Fr5) on the same day and in the same church as his sister Christina married. The wedding document indicates that Hans was a glazier by profession. According to a legal document dated 1st May 1714 (StAB-Bez-FrutigenA223/039), 22-year-old Hans Farni lived in Spiez in 1693 and had, then, a father in law named Niclaus Frutiger from Buhl in Hilterfingen. But no wedding records were found on the first wife of Hans. She probably died a few years after marriage, at child birth, as happened so often at that time. Hans and Anna had a total of three known children and their details will be given on the next generation. However, as there is a gap of 10 years between the second and the third child, they probably had other children who did not survive.

On 26 Nov.1713, Hans was acting in the name of his brother Peter - in his absence from the Reichenbach district - for the exchange contract of a pastureland (**Weydli)** in **Wengi** against a sheep mountain land in **Fromberg** from Hans Graf (BezFrutigenA222/344).

On 31 Jan.1749, a legal document indicates that Hans Farni, then 78 years old, sold to Hanns Hani a pastureland situated above Reudlen and known as **"Blatte"** with house and wood for a price of Krone 36.- (current Sfr.9'000) (source Bez-FrutigenA132)
Hans died at the age of 83 on 16th November 1754 in Reudlen (K15Rb120). His wife Anna 's death record could not be found; she may have died before 1728, the year of the introduction of the burial books in Reichenbach.



Hans Farni & Anna Poler wedding 15 May 1704

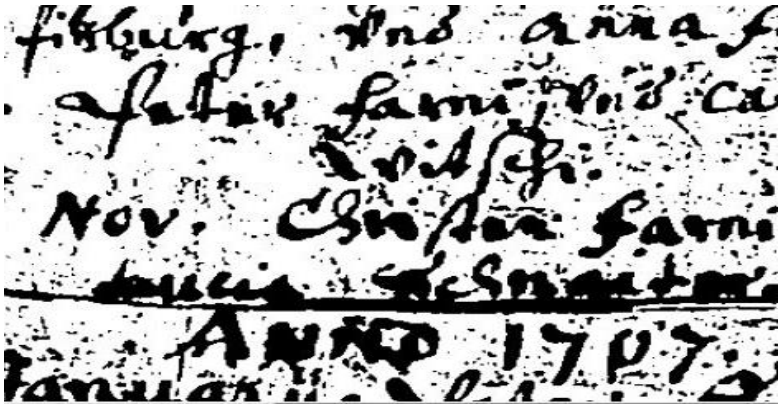


Hans Farni baptism on 15 Oct.1671 in Reichenbach church

Christen Farni was born in Reudlen and baptised on 10th August 1679 in the district church of Reichenbach (K4Rb79). There is a gap of almost 8 years between his birth and that of his elder brother Hans, which could be due to several miscarriages or deaths at birth that were not registered. Another possibility is that the mother Barbara had a long illness or the father was absent. As no inheritance records were found at the death of the parents Peter – Barbara Itten, it is not possible to verify the existence of other siblings.

On 26th November 1706, aged 27, Christen married Lucia Schneiter in Schwarzenegg (K1Schw323). One possible reason why Christen got married in Schwarzenegg and not in his Reichenbach district parish is probably because Lucia was born in Eriz in the district of Schwarzenegg. Christen and Lucia had only two known children and the 7-year gap between the two births is due to damaged church books. The details of the two surviving children will be given in the next generation.

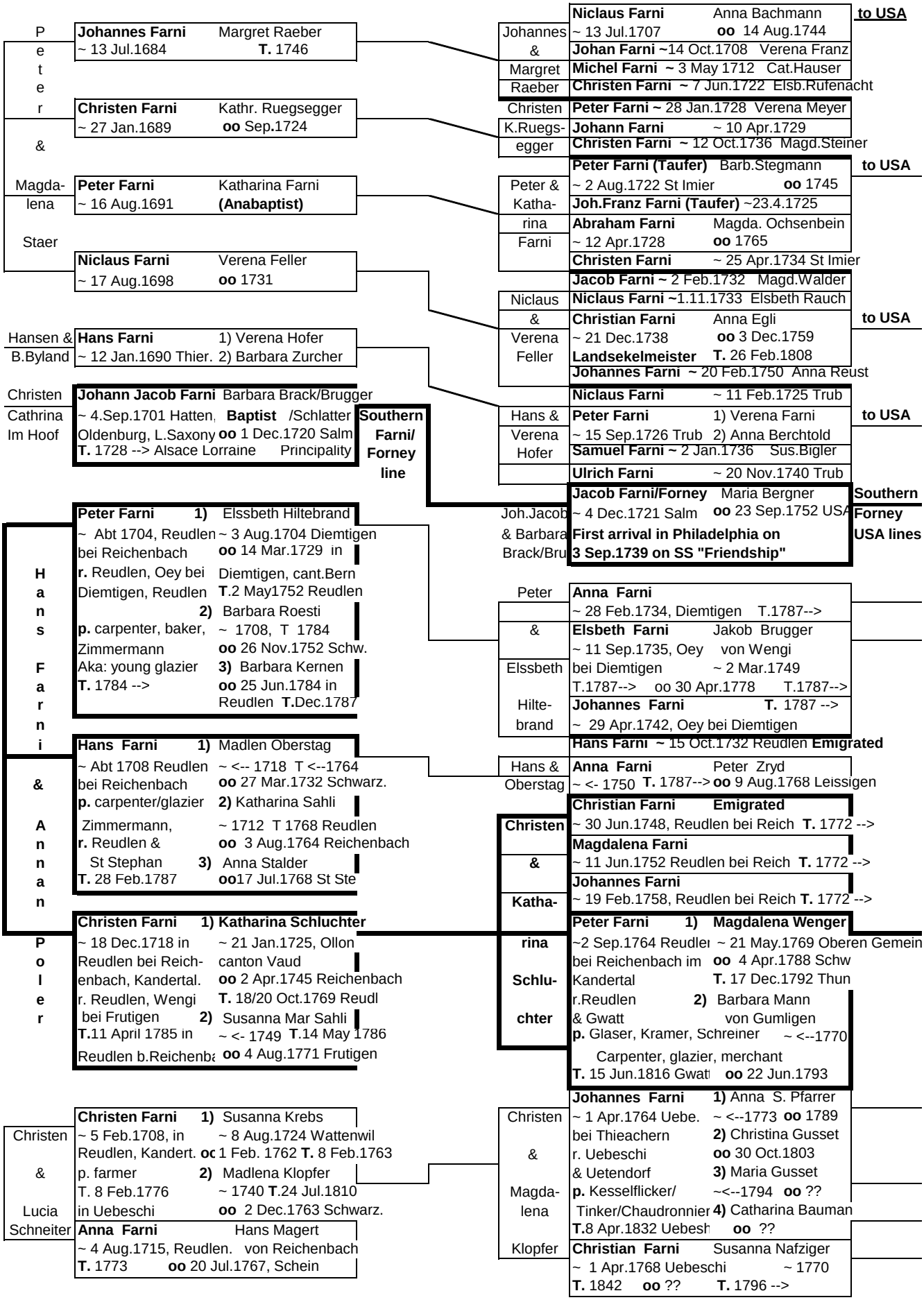
Lucia died at the age of about 74 in Reudlen (K15Rb137) and her husband Christen died in his hometown on 26th May 1766, aged 87 (K15Rb191).



Christen Farni & Lucia Schneiter wedding on 26 Nov.1706 in Schwarzenegg church



Christen Farni baptism


Peter & Magdalena Staer
Johannes Farni ~ 13 Jul.1684 Margret Raeber T. 1746
Christen Farni ~ 27 Jan.1689 Kathr. Ruegsegger oo Sep.1724
Peter Farni ~ 16 Aug.1691 Katharina Farni (Anabaptist)
Niclaus Farni ~ 17 Aug.1698 Verena Feller oo 1731
Hansen & B.Byland
Hans Farni ~ 12 Jan.1690 Thier. 1) Verena Hofer 2) Barbara Zurcher
Christen Cathrina Im Hoof
Johann Jacob Farni ~ 4.Sep.1701 Hatten, Oldenburg, L.Saxony T. 1728 --> Alsace Lorraine Barbara Brack/Brugger Baptist /Schlatter oo 1 Dec.1720 Salm Principality
Southern Farni/ Forney line
Hans Farni & Anna Poler
Peter Farni ~ Abt 1704, Reudlen bei Reichenbach r. Reudlen, Oey bei Diemtigen, Reudlen p. carpenter, baker, Zimmermann Aka: young glazier T. 1784 --> 1) Elssbeth Hiltebrand ~ 3 Aug.1704 Diemtigen oo 14 Mar.1729 in Diemtigen, cant.Bern T.2 May1752 Reudlen 2) Barbara Roesti ~ 1708, T 1784 oo 26 Nov.1752 Schw. 3) Barbara Kernen oo 25 Jun.1784 in Reudlen T.Dec.1787
Hans Farni ~ Abt 1708 Reudlen bei Reichenbach p. carpenter/glazier Zimmermann, r. Reudlen & St Stephan T. 28 Feb.1787 1) Madlen Oberstag ~ <-- 1718 T <--1764 oo 27 Mar.1732 Schwarz. 2) Katharina Sahli ~ 1712 T 1768 Reudlen oo 3 Aug.1764 Reichenbach 3) Anna Stalder oo17 Jul.1768 St Ste
Christen Farni ~ 18 Dec.1718 in Reudlen bei Reichenbach, Kandertal. r. Reudlen, Wengi bei Frutigen T.11 April 1785 in Reudlen b.Reichenba 1) Katharina Schluchter ~ 21 Jan.1725, Ollon canton Vaud oo 2 Apr.1745 Reichenbach T. 18/20 Oct.1769 Reudl 2) Susanna Mar Sahli ~ <- 1749 T.14 May 1786 oo 4 Aug.1771 Frutigen
Christen & Lucia Schneiter
Christen Farni ~ 5 Feb.1708, in Reudlen, Kandert. p. farmer T. 8 Feb.1776 in Uebeschi 1) Susanna Krebs ~ 8 Aug.1724 Wattenwil oo 1 Feb. 1762 T. 8 Feb.1763 2) Madlena Klopfer ~ 1740 T.24 Jul.1810 oo 2 Dec.1763 Schwarz.
Anna Farni ~ 4 Aug.1715, Reudlen. T. 1773 Hans Magert von Reichenbach oo 20 Jul.1767, Schein
Johannes & Margret Raeber
Niclaus Farni ~ 13 Jul.1707 Anna Bachmann oo 14 Aug.1744 to USA
Johan Farni ~14 Oct.1708 Verena Franz
Michel Farni ~ 3 May 1712 Cat.Hauser
Christen Farni ~ 7 Jun.1722 Elsb.Rufenacht
Christen K.Ruegsegger
Peter Farni ~ 28 Jan.1728 Verena Meyer
Johann Farni ~ 10 Apr.1729
Christen Farni ~ 12 Oct.1736 Magd.Steiner
Peter & Katharina Farni
Peter Farni (Taufer) ~ 2 Aug.1722 St Imier Barb.Stegmann oo 1745 to USA
Joh.Franz Farni (Taufer) ~23.4.1725
Abraham Farni ~ 12 Apr.1728 Magda. Ochsenbein oo 1765
Christen Farni ~ 25 Apr.1734 St Imier
Niclaus & Verena Feller
Jacob Farni ~ 2 Feb.1732 Magd.Walder
Niclaus Farni ~1.11.1733 Elsbeth Rauch
Christian Farni ~ 21 Dec.1738 Anna Egli oo 3 Dec.1759 to USA
Landsekelmeister T. 26 Feb.1808
Johannes Farni ~ 20 Feb.1750 Anna Reust
Hans & Verena Hofer
Niclaus Farni ~ 11 Feb.1725 Trub
Peter Farni ~ 15 Sep.1726 Trub 1) Verena Farni 2) Anna Berchtold to USA
Samuel Farni ~ 2 Jan.1736 Sus.Bigler
Ulrich Farni ~ 20 Nov.1740 Trub
Joh.Jacob & Barbara Brack/Bru
Jacob Farni/Forney ~ 4 Dec.1721 Salm Maria Bergner oo 23 Sep.1752 USA Southern Forney USA lines
First arrival in Philadelphia on 3 Sep.1739 on SS "Friendship"
Peter & Elssbeth Hilte-brand
Anna Farni ~ 28 Feb.1734, Diemtigen T.1787-->
Elsbeth Farni ~ 11 Sep.1735, Oey bei Diemtigen T.1787--> Jakob Brugger von Wengi ~ 2 Mar.1749 oo 30 Apr.1778 T.1787-->
Johannes Farni ~ 29 Apr.1742, Oey bei Diemtigen T. 1787 -->
Hans Farni ~ 15 Oct.1732 Reudlen Emigrated
Hans & Oberstag
Anna Farni ~ <- 1750 Peter Zryd T. 1787--> oo 9 Aug.1768 Leissigen
Christen & Katharina Schluchter
Christian Farni ~ 30 Jun.1748, Reudlen bei Reich Emigrated T. 1772 -->
Magdalena Farni ~ 11 Jun.1752 Reudlen bei Reich T. 1772 -->
Johannes Farni ~ 19 Feb.1758, Reudlen bei Reich T. 1772 -->
Peter Farni ~2 Sep.1764 Reudle bei Reichenbach im Kandertal r.Reudlen & Gwatt p. Glaser, Kramer, Schreiner Carpenter, glazier, merchant T. 15 Jun.1816 Gwat 1) Magdalena Wenger ~ 21 May.1769 Oberen Gemein oo 4 Apr.1788 Schw T. 17 Dec.1792 Thun 2) Barbara Mann von Gumligen ~ <--1770 oo 22 Jun.1793
Christen & Magdalena Klopfer
Johannes Farni ~ 1 Apr.1764 Uebe. bei Thieachern r. Uebeschi & Uetendorf p. Kesselflicker/ Tinker/Chaudronnier T.8 Apr.1832 Uebesh 1) Anna S. Pfarrer ~ <--1773 oo 1789 2) Christina Gusset oo 30 Oct.1803 3) Maria Gusset ~<--1794 oo ?? 4) Catharina Bauman oo ??
Christian Farni ~ 1 Apr.1768 Uebeschi T. 1842 oo ?? Susanna Nafziger ~ 1770 T. 1796 -->

Generation 6, The Anabaptists

The remaining known descendants of our Anabaptist Farni lines of generation five are shown below in a shortened format.
These are the children of the three brothers :
- Peter Farni & Magdalena Staer
- Hansen Farni & Barbara Byland
- Christen Farni & Cathrina Im Hoof.

However, it must be pointed out that the descendants of the above three Farni families, that had fled Switzerland 7 or 8 generations ago, emanate almost exclusively from paper trails acquired in Saxony and in other parts of Europe and in the USA. As the information no longer originates from the Swiss church books and other local research, the paper trail below requires a DNA backing to confirm a true link between individuals. As per standard procedure, I started my family research in "reverse", from the known data back to the past. Likewise, the descendants of our three Anabaptist lines also researched back in time and finally reached their Swiss immigrants.

Peter Farni, as can be seen on generation 5, is shown as an Anabaptist martyr with his name and heraldic shield on the Mosestafel of the Steffisburg church. With his wife **Magdalena Staer**, they had a total of 10 known children, but both parents and some of their children left no traces in Switzerland. Most certainly, Peter took his family abroad, first to the Southern German states, like his siblings and their descendants, and later immigrated to America. Three of their sons were researched abroad:

1- Johannes Farni ~ 13 Jul.1684, oo Margret Raeber
2- Niclaus Farni ~ 14 Jul.1707, oo 1744 Anna Bachmann
3- Hans Farni ~ 2 Jun.1747, oo Elsbeth Gerber
4- Peter Farni ~ 15 Jan.1775, oo Anna Witschi
5- Frederick Fahrni ~ 8 May 1806, oo Anna Gasser
6- Frederic Fahrni ~ 4 Feb.1834 in USA
6- Peter Fahrni ~ 19 May 1836 in USA
5- Peter Fahrni ~ 9 Jul.1811, oo 1833 Anna Zysset
6- Peter Fahrni ~ 11 Jul.1833 in USA
6- Chris Fahrni ~ 12 Dec.1842 in USA

1- Peter Farni ~ 16 Aug.1691, (**Taufer)** oo Katharina Farni,
2- Peter Farni ~ 9 Aug.1722, **(Taufer)** oo Barbara Stegmann
3- Ulrich Farni ~ 10 Mar.1754, oo Barbara Farni
4- Hans Farni ~ 8 Jul.1785, oo Barbara Schenk
5- Chris Fahrni ~ 15 Jun.1816, oo Eliz. Schappach
6- Gottfried Fahrni ~ 8 Jan.1850 in USA
6- John Fahrni ~ 25 Apr.1855 in USA
5- John Fahrni ~ 15 Jun.1816, oo Liz Zurcher
6- Chris Alfred Fahrni ~ 28 Mar.1848 in USA
4- Hans Farni ~ 8 Jul.1785, oo Anna Stucki
5- Karl Fahrni ~ 30 Jul.1849 emigrated to USA

1- Niclaus Farni ~ 17 Aug.1698, oo Verena Feller
2- Christian Farni ~ 21 Dec.1738, oo Anna Egli
3- Hans Farni ~ 25 Jan.1761, oo Anna Weiss
4- Niclaus Fahrni ~ 5 May 1806, oo Liza Aebersold
5- Johan Fahrni ~ 26 Aug.1833**,** oo Maria Ramseier
6- Nicholas Fahrni ~ 29 Jul.1858 oo Liz Wenger, USA

Hansen Farni of generation five is also shown as an Anabaptist. As he and his wife **Barbara Byland** disappeared without traces, they must also have emigrated. At least one of their sons was also researched abroad as below:

1- Hans Farni ~ 12 Jan.1690, oo Verena Hofer
2- Peter Farni ~ 15 Sep.1726, oo Verena Farni
3- Hans Farni ~ 18 Oct.1761, oo Magdalena Blaser
4- Christen Fahrni ~ 15 Feb.1795, oo Elsbeth Kung
5- Chris Fahrni ~ 17 Apr.1825, oo E. Stucker in USA
6- Chris Fahrni ~ 30 Nov.1854 in Butler Co, OH
3- Hans Farni ~ 18 Oct.1761, oo Magdalena Blaser
4- Hans Fahrni ~ 18 Apr.1806, oo Elizabeth Schindler
5- Karl Fahrni ~ 16 Dec.1853, emigrated to USA

Johann Jacob Farni, born on 4 September 1701, is the last known son of Christen Farni and Cathrina Im Hoof. His birth certificate indicates that he was born in the village of Hatten, Oldenburg district in Lower Saxony. This birth document confirms that Christen left Switzerland with his family sometime between 1699 to early 1701 to settle in the North of Germany near Bremen and Hamburg. Johann Jacob can be traced 24 years later, in 1725, in the Principality of Salm in Alsace Lorraine, which is near the Swiss border.

Alsace Lorraine was mainly a French speaking region at that time, and Johann Jacob was going by the name of Jean Jacques Farni. He got married, on first December 1720, to Barbara Brack/Brugger, widow of Benoit Schlatter, aka Schlechter/Schlaster (who died after 1715). An official 1702 document indicates that this same Benedict (Benoit) Schlatter, originating from Schwanden, district of Sigriswil on lake Thun, Switzerland, was the first Swiss Amish lease holder as a farmer in the Salm Principality. The fact that our Johann Jacob Farni had married Benoit Schlatter's widow is a confirmation that our ancestor was also an Anabaptist.

In early 18th century, Salm was a semi-independent Principality and was not directly subject to the French King. In 1715, the Prince of Salm leased one of his farms to Benedict Schlatter and this same farm was taken over by his son Christian in 1720. The last trace of Johann Jacob Farni/Farny/Forney is 1728, when he purchased land from his adopted son Christian Schlatter in Salm. According to the Wheeler's "Historical Sketches" Johann Jacob Farni died prematurely in about 1729 in Alsace Lorraine, but his wife's Schlatter family seems to have immigrated to Philadelphia. The above is the paper trail discovered so far, and it is hoped that DNA matches will one day confirm this family's genealogy.

Jacob Farni/Farny/Forney is the only known child of Johann Jacob Farni and Barbara Brack/Brugger. He was born on 12 October and baptized on 4 December 1721 in the catholic church of Salm. On 3 Sep.1739, at the age of 18, Jacob arrived for the first time in Philadelphia on SS Friendship. Later, another passenger list indicates that Jacob Farni/Forney arrived in the USA for the second time on 23 Sep. 1752 on SS St Andrews He married Maria Bergner on that very day of arrival, letting us to assume that they travelled together to the new country. They founded together the **Southern Forney lineage.**

The Protestant Farni Line

Peter Farni is the first child of Hans and Anna Poler and he belongs to the second Farni generation born in Reudlen. However, due to missing and damaged church books Peter's christening records are not available; but later documents confirm that he is of our lineage. Peter was born in about 1704, and was about 25 years old when he married, on 14th March 1729, an Elssbeth Hiltebrand (K2Schw155) in the district church of Diemtigen. Elssbeth Hiltebrand was baptized in Diemtigen on 3rd August 1704 (K4Diem263) and her parents were Jacob Hiltebrand and Margreth Rubi from Hassli in the district of Diemtigen.

Since the wedding took place in Diemtigen, a small nearby village, and their three children were christened in that same church, we must assume that Peter had left his native Reudlen shortly before he married. Peter lived in Diemtigen for about 13 years where he was a carpenter and glazier by trade, like his father in Reudlen. He moved back with his family to Reudlen sometime between 1742 (birth of his last child) and 1752 (death year of his wife). Elssbeth died at the age of 48, and her burial took place on 2 May 1752 in Reichenbach (K15Rb120). Both of their daughters encountered difficulties, later, with the Reichenbach church tribunal "Chorgericht" for having given birth to offspring out of wedlock. Anna and Elsbeth were respectively 18 and 19 years old when they lost their mother and probably their stepmother was not helping with family harmony. The two daughters with children out of wedlock will be covered in the next generation.

Barely six months after the death of his first wife, as a widower with three teenage children in the house, Peter married for the second time on 26 November 1752 to a Barbara Roesti from Frutigen (K12Rb16). Barbara was a widow of Hans Schmid from Frutigen. Peter and his new wife Barbara were then well over 40 years old and there are no traces that they had any children together. Barbara had been married for 32 years to Peter when she died in 1784, aged 76, (K16Rb45). Surprisingly, Peter - now an old man of 80 - married again, this time a Barbara Kernen who was 1 years his senior, on 25th June 1784 in the district church of Reichenbach (K12Rb127). Peter married his third wife barely 3 Months after the death of his second wife Barbara and it seems that Peter could not stand the status of being without a wife. No research was carried out to find possible descendants of this couple totaling 161 years at their wedding!!! Barbara died in December 1787, aged 85, in Hilterfingen (K13Hilt90). No death record of Peter was found.

During his lifetime, Peter purchased and sold several properties which will shed some light on his activities. Below, some legal acts related to his transactions:

- 18 December 1762: Peter Farni signed a matrimonial contract with his second wife Barbara born Rosti which said that: Peter Farni sold one of his houses in Reudlen to Hans Jaggi and as a compensation to his wife he promised to build another house which will become full ownership of Barbara at the death of Peter (Bez-FrutigenA226/140).
- 5 September 1763: Peter Farni, the carpenter in Reudlen, sells to Hans Jaggi his bakery with surrounding land (Bez-FrutigenA226/99).
- 11 November 1771: Peter Farni, the carpenter in Reudlen, sells to Jakob Zur Brugg his new stone house in the corner of the "Landstrasse" in Reudlen, with the exception of the orchard which belongs to his brothers Christian and Hans. Selling price: Kronen.216.- (current Sfr.50'000.-) (Bez-FrutigenA229/35).
- 14 December 1772: Hans von Kaenel acknowledges to owing Peter Farni & 14 August 1773 : the sum of Krone.100.- (current Sfr.23'000.-) (Bez-FrutigenA229/233 & 317).
- 24 January 1778 : Peter Farni, the carpenter in Reudlen, sells to Samuel Kessler of Adelboden one house in Reudlen for the price of Kronen.203.-- (current Sfr.47'000.-) (Bez-FrutigenA230/580).
- 21 February 1780: Letter of Debts; Peter Farni, the carpenter in Reudlen, owes Christian Steggman of Schwarzenegg the sum of Pfund.500.- (current Sfr.35'000.-). Peter gives as guaranty one house in the Landstrasse in Reudlen (Bez-FrutigenA231/259).
- 3 July 1780: Peter Farni, carpenter in Reudlen, sells to Jakob Senn of Anenstein a property with garden for Pfund.400.-(Sfr.28'000.-). It is pointed out that this property is mortgaged in favor of Christian Steggman (Bez-FrutigenA231/275).
- December 1787: Following the death of Barbara Farni born Kernen, widow of Peter Farni of Reudlen, the legal heirs were assembled for an inheritance settlement under the chairmanship of Samuel Farni, (Obmann), President of the Municipality of Eriz and in the presence of Emanuel Muller (Gerichtsass) Magistrate of Reichenbach.

Based on the available testament of late Peter Farni, the persons below were present:

1) Maria Kernen, sister of the deceased;
2) Johannes Farni, son of late Peter;
3) Anna Farni, daughter of late Peter;
4) Elsbeth Brugger-Farni, daughter of late Peter and represented by her husband Jakob Brugger.

The total assets were estimated at Kronen.756.- (current Sfr.175'000.-) but there is no mention as to how this was distributed among the four successors (Bez-ThunA341/347).

Hans Farni was born in Reudlen around 1708, but his baptism records are not available due to damaged and missing church books in Reichenbach.
Hans "the junior", as he was called, was a carpenter and glazier by trade like his father before him. He married Madlen Oberstaeg on 27 March 1732 (K2Schw157). Madlen was originally from Oberwill in the nearby Simmenthal and she was born before 1718, considering the birth date of her first child. Only two children are known to have been born from this couple, namely Hans on 15 Oct.1732 who, according the succession document of his father, in 1787, had been living abroad without address since many years. Anna was born around 1750 and she married a Peter Zryd from Adelboden on 9th of August 1768 in Leissingen (K18Adb33). Anna was mentioned as an heiress at the death of her father in 1787 and at that time she was a widow with two children, named Johannes and Anny Zryd.

Following the death of his first wife Madlen, in early 1764, Hans married again soon after, 3rd August of the same year, a Katharina Sahli from nearby Wohlen (K12Rb52). Katharina was in her 50s at that time and was a widow of Peter Gerber. Only 4 years after the wedding, Katharina died on 18 March 1768 in Reudlen (K15Rb208). Hans married his third wife, Anna Stalder from the village of St Steffan, on 17 July 1768 in the church of Reichenbach (K12Rb68). At his third wedding, Hans was about 60 years old and Anna was a widow of Hans Schleppi from Lenk. Hans died on 28 February 1787, at the age of about 79, living behind his third wife Anna Stalder and his daughter Anna Zryd. His son Johannes could not be contacted as he had settled abroad with no address.

Below are some of the legal documents related to Hans Farni's financial transactions later in life:

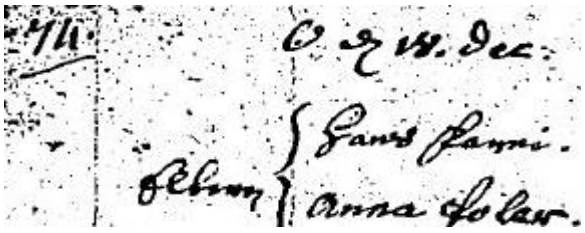
- 29 May 1769: Hans Farni, the carpenter in Reudlen, sells to Peter Zur Brugg a lot of grazing land in Reudlen named **Schwendli** for the amount of Kronen**.**60.- (current Sfr.14'000.-) (Bez-FrutigenA228/180).
- 16 May 1772: Hans Farni, the glazier and carpenter in Reudlen, sells to Melcher Zur Brugg a grazing land with stables and storage hut in Reudlen named **Buchholz** for a price of Kronen.96.- (current Sfr.22'000.-) (Bez-FrutigenA266/181).
- 18 March 1773: Hans Farni of Reudlen sells to his son in law Peter Zryd from Adelboden half of his double house in Reudlen, including the front garden, for the price of Kronen.130.- (current Sfr.30'000.-) (StAb-Bez-FrutigenA229/204).
- 9 March 1786: Hans Farni of Reudlen sells a house to Anna Isler for Kronen 100.- (current Sfr.23'000.-) (Bez-FrutigenA232/791).

- 16 June 1787: A meeting was convened on the above date to deal with the inheritance settlement of the deceased Hans Farni's assets in the presence of the legal successors, namely:
  a) Johannes Farni, son of the deceased, living abroad with no known address, was represented by Ulrich Farni from Eriz ;
  b) Anna Zryd-Farni, daughter of the deceased, represented by Peter Allig, (Statthalter) Head of the District Council of Adelboden;
  c) Anna Farni-Stalder, widow of the deceased, represented by Christen Farni, (Vogt & Landseckelmeister) Bailiff & Finance secretary of Eriz;

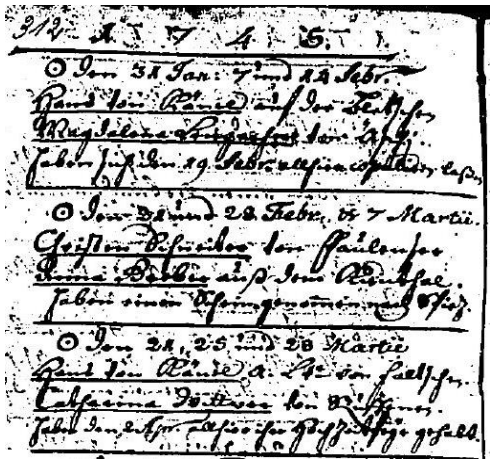
  In the name of the deceased, it was decided that Anna Farni-Stalder, widow, would receive one third of her late husband's total assets but she would also take over the outstanding debts contracted by the late Hans Farni amounting to Kronen.56.- (current Sfr.13'000.-). Secondly, daughter Anna Zryd - Farni and her two children would receive another third of the assets. The report makes no mention on what happened to the share of the untraceable Johannes Farni but this matter, together with a final assessment of the total wealth, is most certainly dealt with later in another document (which could not be found). (StAB:Bez-ThunA340/379ff1.2.3).

Christen Farni is the third son of Hans Farni & Anna Poler and he carried forward the Fahrni bloodlines to the Swiss descendents as well as to our American cousins, the New Philadelphia, OH, Fahrney line. Christen was born in Reudlen and baptized on 18th December 1718 in the District church of Reichenbach in the Kandertal (K5Rb74). As there is about a ten year gap between Christen's birth and that of his elder brother Hans, it is possible that siblings unknown to us were born in that time span. Christen was less than 10 years old at the death of his mother.

At the age of 27, Christen married Katharina Schluchter on 2nd April 1745 in Reichenbach (K5Rb312). Katharina was born 20 years earlier in Ollon (K5Rb177), the French part of Switzerland, but her parents Christen Schluchter and Cathri Rychenbach were originally from Reudlen. Christen and Katharina had five children together during the period 1748 – 1764, all born in Reudlen and four survived out of their childhood. The details of these four children will be given under the next generation.



Baptism of Christen Farni on 18 Dec. 1718 in Reichenbach church.



Wedding of Christen Farni and Katharina Schluchter in 1745.

No mention is made about Christen's profession in the many sales and purchase documents below, but it is obvious that he was a craftsman like his father and his two brothers. Christen was wealthy like his two brothers and was politically well connected as both his last two children had a bailiff and a magistrate as godfather (K6Rb81) & (K6Rb141). Wife Katharina died at the age of 45 in Reudlen, on 20 Oct.1769 (K15Schw15). Her youngest son Peter was then barely five years old.

Two years after the death of his first wife Katharina, Christen married a Susanna Maria Sahli on 4th August 1771 in Frutigen (K12Rb79) & (Bez-Frutigen A229/91). Susanna was probably the sister of Kathri Sahli who married Christen's brother, Hans, in 1764. At his second wedding, Christen was 54 years old and his new wife Susanna was around 35 but it seems no surviving children had issued from this marriage. Christen died at the age of 67 in Reudlen on 9th April 1785 (K16Rb53).

Below are some abstracts of legal documents related to Christen's activities:

- 5 March 1757: Christen Farni sells to Jakob Rychen a surface of land called **Hasli** in Reudlen, including two barns and a stable and all the trees for the sum of Pfund.350.- (current Sfr.25'000) (Bez-Frutigen225/176/243)

- 21 July 1769: Christen Farni sells to his brother Hans Farni a surface of pasture land in **Buchholtz**, Reudlen, for the price of Kronen.50.- (current Sfr.12'000) (Bez-FrutigenA266/181)

- 18 March 1772: Christen Farni sells to his brother Hans Farni a piece of grazing land called **Rein** in Reudlen for the price of Kronen.32. - (current Sfr.7'500) (Bez-FrutigenA229/203).

- 30 March 1772: Two years ago died Katharina Schluchter, wife of Christen Farni in Reudlen. As Christen married again recently, he arranged for an inheritance assessment for his children Christian, Johannes, Peter and Magdalena with the assistance of Samuel Farni (Landvogt) Mayor of Eriz and Christian Farni (Obmann) President of the Eriz Municipality.

Christen Farni's financial transactions

Christen Farni owns the following estates and property in Reudlen :

1) The main house with surrounding land and forest called **Steigacher;**
2) A surface of farm land in Reudlen called **Dorni**;
3) A farm with land and house and stables in Reudlen called **Die Halten.**
The total value of the above properties is estimated to be Pfund.1'700.- (current Sfr.120'000) (Bez-FrutigenA229/91).

- 25 May 1773: Christen Farni of Reudlen sells to Gilgian Linder junior of Reuti half the surface of land including house and wood he jointly owns with Christen Schluchter of Wengi for Kronen.100.- (current Sfr.23'000) (Bez-Frutigen229/235).

- 28 September 1773: Christen Farni of Reudlen sells to former Bailiff Antoni Rubin of Reudlen his main estate including house, surrounding land and trees called **Steigacher,** a surface of grazing land called **Dorni** and two forests situated in respectively Reuttenen and Blattenweg for an amount of Kronen.1100.- (current Sfr.255'000) (Bez-FrutigenA229/418).

- 14 December 1773: Christen Farni of Reudlen sells to Judge Antony Rubin the remaining part of his **Steigacher** land for Kronen.168.-, current Sfr.38'000) (Bez-FrugigenA229/233).

The second **Christen Farni** is the cousin of the three above brothers and the first son child of Christen Farni & Lucia Schneiter. He was born in Reudlen and baptized on 5 February 1708 in the district church of Reichenbach (K1Schw286). No information was found on Christen until he was 54 years old, the time he married Susanna Krebs from Wattenwyl on 1st February 1762 in Reichenbach (K12Schw286). It is probable that Christen was married before but no mention of heirs of a previous union is made in the inheritance settlement document after his death. When she married Christen, Susanna was already 38 years old which means that she most likely was a widow. Susanna died one year after her wedding, probably at child birth (LDSfamilysearch).

The same year, Christen married a Madlena Klopfer from Uebeschi on 2nd December 1763 (K12Schw39). Madlena was about 30 years younger than her husband and she gave Christen two sons, Johannes and Christian, whose details will be provided in the next generation.

Christen died at the age of 68 in Uebeschi on 8 February 1776 (K19Thie94) living behind a young widow and two teenage children.
One month later, on 20th March 1776, an assessment of Christen's assets was made by widow Madlena Klopfer, with the help of Hans Finger (Obman), former Eriz Municipality president, which are as below:

1) a farm house with surrounding land in Reudlen;

2) a surface of land called **Das Hasli** with storehouse and trees

The two above properties, together with house items as per testament dated 28 May 1768 were sold to the deceased sister Anna Farni-Magert for the sum of Krone.95.- (current Sfr.22'000) (Bez-FrutigenA230/50).

Anna Farni is the sister of the above Christen and she was born in Reudlen and christened on 4th August 1715 in the district church of Schwarzenegg (K1Schw152).

We have the same situation here as with her brother Christen, in that no data is available on Anna until she is 52 years old, when she married Hans Magert on 20th July 1767 (K12Schw55). With this missing information on her earlier life, it cannot be discounted that Anna was married before. Anna died at the age of 58 on 13 December 1773 in Reudlen (K15Rb239). Following the death of Christen Farni, three years later, in 1776, Hans Magert, purchased the property from Christen's widow, Madlena Klopfer (see Christen above).

Date change from Julian to Gregorian Calendar

The Julian Calendar, which was introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, had been in existence for over 16 centuries when Pope Gregory XIII proclaimed a fundamental reform, in 1582, in order to correct some calculation errors. The new calendar became known as the Gregorian, or Western, or Christian Calendar.

Catholic states of Europe, consisting of France, Italy, part of Germany, Poland, the catholic regions of Switzerland, etc., adopted this new Gregorian Calendar by dropping 11 days in October 1582, resulting that 4 October became 15 October.

As the Catholic Church had no authority over the protestant regions, the new calendar was adopted much later in the reformed parts of the world. The protestant cantons of Switzerland, including canton Bern, made the change at the end of 16th Century by dropping 12 days, when 31st December 1700 became 12 January 1701. Great Britain and her colonies, including what is now the United States, changed in 1752, when 2 September 1752 became 14 September.



SEPTEMBER, 1752

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	~~3~~	~~4~~	~~5~~	~~6~~	~~7~~
~~8~~	~~9~~	~~10~~	~~11~~	~~12~~	~~13~~	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

But even when taking the above facts into consideration, it is undeniable that some church pastors, court officials and civil servants were using the old Julian calendar long after the introduction of the Gregorian system. We must therefore be aware that in our genealogical data of 16th and 17th centuries, events could have been noted in either the old or the new dating system.

Johann Jacob & Barbara Brugger
Jacob Farni/Forney Maria Bergner
~ 4 Dec.1721 Salm **oo** 23 Sep.1752 USA
First arrival in Philadelphia on 3 Sep.1739 on SS Friendship
Progenitor of Forney Southern Line

Peter & Elssbeth Hilte-brand
Anna Farni
~ 28 Feb.1734, Diemtigen **T.**1787-->
Elsbeth Farni Jakob Brugger
~ 11 Sep.1735, Oey von Wengi
bei Diemtigen ~ 2 Mar.1749
T.1787--> oo 30 Apr.1778 **T.**1787-->
Johannes Farni **T.** 1787 -->
~ 29 Apr.1742, Oey bei Diemtigen,

Anna Fahrni
Anna Fahrni out of wedlock
~ Abt mid.1758
Hans Fahrni out of wedlock
~ 5 Jul.1762 **T.** 20 Aug.1762

Elsbeth Fahrni
Johannes Fahrni out of wedlock
~ 2 Apr.1762 **T.** 29 Jun.1762

Peter Fahrni & Magda-lena Wenger
Elsbeth Fahrni Johannes Stahli
~ 11 Jan.1789 Krattigen von Oberhofen
in Aeschi district **p.** Muller in Merligen
oo 21 Aug.1812 Thun

Christian Fahrni **1) Suzanna Scherz**
~ 26 Jun.1791 in ~ 24 May 1789 in
Gwatt Thun district Aeschi, Spiez
r. Gwatt bei Thun **oo** 15 May.1814 Aeschi
& Unterlangenegg, **T.** 30 Jul.1822 Thun
Shwarzenegg dis. **2)** Rosina Fehlbaum
p. Zimmermann, ~ 15 Mar.1805 Aarburg
Schreiner, **oo** 29 Nov.1822 Thun
Tischmacher **T.** 25 Jun.1829 in
Carpenter/Glazier, Gwatt, Thun district
Cabinet maker **3) Magdalena Kneubuhl**
~ 7 Aug.1807 in
Schwarzenegg
T.12 May 1841 in **oo** 27 Sep.1829 Oberdiessbach
Schwarzenegg **T.** 7 Jan.1845 Schwa
accident in Thun
Magdalena married a second Christen Farni

Magda.Fahrni Kneubuhl **Christen Fahrni**
~ 7 Aug.1807 ~ <--- 1829
oo 2 Mar.1844 in **p.** Zimmermann
Schwarzenegg Carpenter
T. 7/10 Jan.1845

Christen & Katha-rina Schlu-chter
Christian Farni **Emigrated**
~ 30 Jun.1748, in
Reudlen bei Reichenbach **T.** 1772-->
Anna Maria Farni
~1 Mar.1751 Reudler **T.** 25 Apr.1751
Magdalena Farni
~ 11 Jun.1752 in
Reudlen bei Reichenbach **T.** 1772-->
Johannes Farni
~ 19 Feb.1758, in
Reudlen bei Reichenbach **T.** 1772-->
Peter Farni **1) Magdalena Wenger**
~2 Sep.1764 Reudler ~ 21 May.1769 in
bei Reichenbach im Oberen Gemeinde,
Kandertal, cant. Bern Schwarzenegg
r. Reudlen & **oo** 4 Apr.1788 Schw
Gwatt bei Thun **T.** 17 Dec.1792 Thun
p. Glaser, Kramer, **2)** Barbara Mann
Schreiner/Glazier, von Gumligen
Merchant, Carpenter. ~ <--1770
Widow Hans Ellenberg
T. 15 Jun.1816 Gwat **oo** 22 Jun.1793
Thun district

Barbara Mann & Hans Ellenberg
Anna Ellenberg
~ <-- 1792

Christen & Magda-lena Klopfer
Johannes Farni **1)** Anna Susanna Pfarrer
~1 Apr.1764 Uebeschi von Messen SO
bei Thieachern ~ <--1763 **T.**5 Apr.1822
r. Uebeschi **oo** 25 Sep.1789 Sch
p. Kesselflicker/ Divorced <--Oct.1803
Kesselschmied **2)** Christina Gusset
Tinker, aka ~ 14 Aug.1760 Thierachern
itinerant repairer **oo 3**0 Oct.1803 Thier
of pots and pans **T.** 26 Jul.1805 Thier
3) Maria Gusset
~ <--1794 **oo** ??
T. Aug.1820 -->
T. 8 Aug.1832 in **4)** Catharina Baumann
Uebeschi **oo** ??

Johannes & Anna Susanna Pfarrer
Elisabetha Fahrni
~ 17 Oct.1789, Uebeschi bei Thierachern

Johannes & Maria Gusset
Johannes Fahrni **out of wedlock**
~ 28 Apr.1808 Uebeschi **p.** Kessler/tinker
Christen Fahrni **out of wedlock**
~ 26 Apr.1810 in Magdalena Weber
Uebeschi **oo** 19 Oct.1832 in
T. 1 Mar.1870 Thiera. Schwarzenegg
Samuel Fahrni **out of wedlock**
~ 23 Jan.1812 in Anna Gusset
Uebeschi **oo** 27 Apr.1832
T. 22 Sep.1861 **p.** Kessler, Tinker
Johannes Fahrni **out of wedlock**
~ 22 Jul.1820 Thierachern

Christen & Magda-lena Klopfer
Christian Farni Susanna Nafziger
~ 1 Apr.1768 Uebeschi ~<-- 1770
T. 1842 **T.** 1796-->

Johannes & Catharina Baumann
Christen Fahrni **out of wedlock**
~ 20 Apr.1814

Christian & Susan Nafziger
Magdalena Fahrni
~ 28 Feb.1788 Uebeschi
T. 29 Jan.1842
Anna Fahrni ~ 8 Aug.1796 Uebeschi

The Farnis from Reudlen & Chorgericht,

Anna Farni was the first child of Peter, the carpenter/glazier from Reudlen and Elssbeth Hiltebrand; she was baptized on 28 Feb.1734 in the district church of Diemtigen (K5Diem122). The information available on Anna is not a very happy one, with the serious consequences she suffered for having had children out of wedlock. It would appear plausible that she became untraditional as an 18 years old teenager when her mother died, in May1752. Her father remarrying only 6 months later had probably produced a lack of stability. Her first illegitimate child was born sometime in early 1758 and more details are given below regarding her expulsion from the district of Reichenbach for being a single mother. It should be noted that Anna was a 24-year-old adult women when she was expelled.

The reporting by the authorities on this matter is of interest. The Church Tribunal, or Consistory Court, (Chorgericht) of Reichenbach, in its session of 19 December, 1757, documented the situation of pregnant Anna Farni, daughter of Peter Farni, carpenter in Reudlen, as follows: As per its duties, the Chorgericht has examined the unmarried Anna Farni and concluded she was with child. Anna Farni claims that the father of the child is a certain Mr Beney, a Roman Catholic living in Sion, canton of Valais. The Chorgericht obtained the confession that Anna Farni travelled to canton of Valais in Summer, without any financial means, to find a temporary job in hay harvesting. There she was seduced by Mr Beney, a catholic salesman from St Moritz living in Sion, who visited her several times. She had the bad fortune that Mr Beney gave her wine to drink and she became pregnant.

The Chorgericht considers that Anna Farni behaved like a whore, and she could not even say whether this Mr Beney was married or single. In view of this dishonoring situation, the Chorgericht of this town decided that Anna Farni should be expelled, this week, to Eriz, her commune of origin. With immediate effect, the honorable pastor of this town should inform in writing the pastor of Schwarzenegg, respectfully explaining the decision about Anna Farni. Peter Farni gave his word that he would transport his daughter to Eriz at his own costs. But the father did not keep his word, despite his financial means, and it is the cowman Von Kanel that was given the task to transport this sorrowful Anna Farni to Eriz, which he did o 24 December. The costs incurred by our Reichenbach commune amounts to Kronen.4.15 (current Sfr.920-), which will be claimed from the Eriz commune.

It is worthwhile to say a few words, here, about 18th century social pressure dealing with premarital pregnancies and paternity claims in canton Bern. An impressively large number of families had their first child four to six months after their wedding. Unquestionably, this confirms that as soon as a women knew she was pregnant her only salvation was to get married. A single mother with child had a very hard time to survive in her community. If the father of the child lied his way out and denied having had sexual intercourse with the mother, he was generally not prosecuted. There existed obviously no DNA tests to find out the true paternity, nor was there another platform to mediate the dispute and the mother remained single with child.

It is remarkably well documented that a fatherless child was rejected by society, starting with the church as his/her baptism could not be performed on a Sunday, in the view of the public. From then onwards, a single mother had practically no chance to marry a decent man. A single mother and her child were branded for life; she, as a women of bad life and the child as a bastard. The exclusion from society was often so unbearable for the mother that she would attempt a very risky abortion. If found out, this would lead to the death penalty for the mother on charges of infant murder. The archives of the Thun Castle show a 1796 list of several women from the region who were decapitated for such a crime.

The concise version of the paternity and marriage jurisdiction in canton Bern was as follows: An unmarried and pregnant woman has to inform immediately the local parish pastor of her situation and give details on the time and place where she was impregnated and by whom. The pastor would then inform the church tribunal "Chorgericht" which was competent for the interrogation of the designated father of the child. In case the accused man denies having had a sexual intercourse with the pregnant women, the Chorgericht would nominate two respectable men whose duty would be to interrogate the women during her childbirth pains. In the presence of the midwife, they would exhort the women and make her confess the name of the real father of the child. In case respectable witnesses can confirm having seen the designated father with the pregnant women in intimate situations, the matter will be referred to the Chorgericht or to the upper family court of Bern. Up to the seventh month of pregnancy, the designated father can make a legal marriage proposal to the pregnant women or to declare paternity. If the designated father continues to deny having had sexual relations with the women, he has the right to prove openly that the woman was leading a guilty and indecent life. In this case, the defendant is acquitted and the child stays with the mother at her charges.

Elsbeth Farni is the second child of Peter Farni, the carpenter/glazier in the village of Oey, and Elssbeth Hiltebrand. This second daughter was born in Oey and baptized on 11 Sep.1735 in the Diemtigen district church. Like her elder sister, Elsbeth also had a child out of wedlock, a Johannes, baptized on 2 April 1762, when she was 27 years old. This Johannes died three months later. At the age of 53, Elsbeth married a Jakob Brugger, 14 years her junior.

Soon after Elsbeth gave birth to her illegitimate child Johannes, the church tribunal made the following report:

On 20 August 1762, the Chorgericht of this town held a meeting in the church regarding the disobedient Peter Farni, the carpenter from Reudlen, who did not carry out the church instruction dated 4 March 1762 that he takes back to Eriz his prostitute daughter Elsbeth Farni, so that she can give birth of her illegitimate child in her commune of origin. As he did not comply with the order of the District Mayor "Landvogt", Peter Farni will now be punished with a fine and 24 hours imprisonment. Regarding the prostitute Elsbeth Farni, who gave birth to an illegitimate child in our church district, she will also be punished. However, if she decides to leave our church district and go and live elsewhere, the punishment will be forgotten (Chorgerichtsmanual Reichenbach, Band 4).

Let us now turn to **our direct bloodline of ancestry**, in generation 7, with:

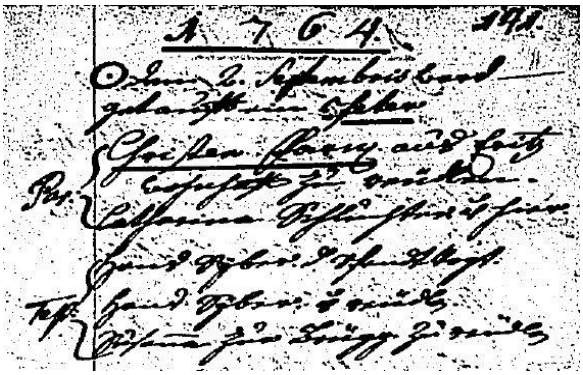
Christian Farni, is the first child of Christen Farni and Katharina Schluchter. He was born in Reudlen and baptized on 30 June 1748 in the district church of Reichenbach, in Kandertal (K6Rb16). This is the third and last generation of our Farni lineage that was born in Reudlen. Our Christian's name appears on the 30th of March,1772 "distribution of assets" document of his father, but no wedding could be traced in the Reichenbach district. Christian was 24 years old then, and unconfirmed data indicate that he had left Switzerland soon after the inheritance settlement.

Magdalena Farni was baptized on 11 June 1752 in the district church of Reichenbach. Magdalena is named in the 1772 distribution of assets document as a 20 year old spinster, and she must have married outside of the district.

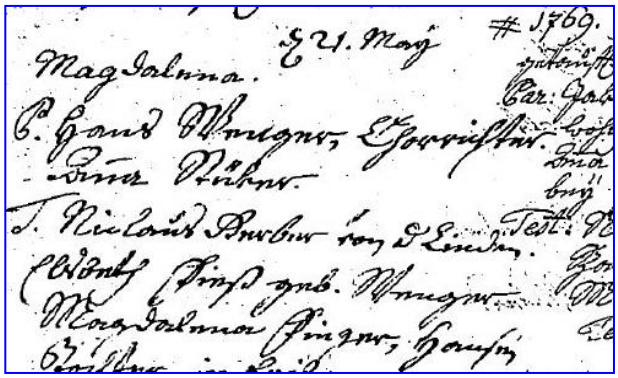
Johannes Farni was born six years after his sister Magdalena, and baptized on 19 February 1758 in the district church of Reichenbach (K6Rb81). The godfathers of Johannes were Hans Gilman and Christen Linder, both Magistrates by profession. When his mother Katharina died, in 1769, Johannes was 11 years old. But no other data was found on him other than his name being mentioned on the 1772 distribution of assets document.

Peter Farni is the only male child with known descendants and he carries forward our **Fahrni lineage of Switzerland** as well as that of the New Philadelphia, Ohio, **Fahrney line of USA**. Peter was born in Reudlen and baptized on 2 September 1764 in the Reichenbach district church (K6Rb141). His godfather was none less than the Bailiff "Spendvogt" of Reudlen, Mr Hans Syber. Peter was the last child of the Christen and Katharina Schluchter couple. He was also the unfortunate five year old toddler when his mother died in 1769. As our Peter did well in life and was a successful businessman, the young orphan must have been taken care of, first by his elder siblings, and later by the stepmother.

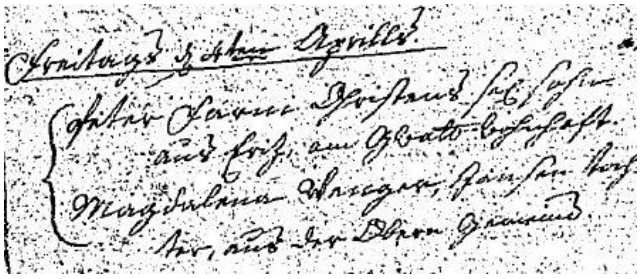
Peter was 24 years old when he married Magdalena Wenger; the bride was the young daughter of Hans Wenger, the President of the Municipality of Obere Gemeinde. Their wedding took place on 4 April 1788 in Schwarzenegg (K13Schw2) and according to the wedding authorization document of Spiez, dated 27 March 1788, both Peter and Magdalena were residing in Gwatt.
As shown below, Magdalena Wenger was baptized on 21 May 1769 in the Schwarzenegg district church. This indicates that the newlywed moved to Gwatt sometime before their wedding. It is in Gwatt that Peter set up his Carpentry and Glaziery construction business, like so many of his ancestors did before him.



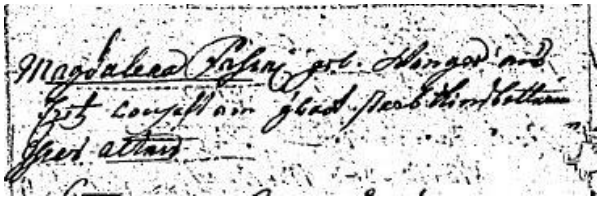
Peter Farni baptism on 2 Sep.1764
(son of Christen & Katharina Schluchter)



Magdalena Wenger baptism on
21 May 1769 in Schwarzenegg



Peter Farni & Magdalena Wenger wedding on 4 April 1788 in Schwarzenegg



Burial of Magdalena Farni-Wenger on 17 December 1792 (K13Thun60)

The first child of the Peter and Magdalena couple was born just nine months after their wedding. Elsbeth was baptized 11 January 1789 and their only son Christian was born three years later. Then misfortune befell on this young family, with the death of 23-year old Magdalena while giving birth to their third child. It happened in December 1792 and they had been married for only four and a half years. Peter found himself widower with a four-year-old daughter and a barely one-year-old son. It is not surprising that Peter remarried six months later. Peter wedded Barbara Mann on 22 Jun.1793 (K13Schw12), to take care of the family so he could manage his business. His second wife Barbara was widowed, not long before, of a Hans Ellenberg, and she brought along a small daughter named Anna to the recomposed family. Subsequent legal documents indicate that Anna Ellenberg was not yet confirmed at her mother's wedding to Peter, meaning she was then a young child.

<u>Orphan hood in our direct line of ancestry</u>

The description given earlier in this book on the deplorable state of 17th Century medical care had not improved much during the following 200 years. Babies were still delivered in the family home with the assistance of an often unqualified midwife who used, as main tools, a bucket of warm water, towels and a pair of scissors. And when a mother died at childbirth, the newborn had no chance of survival in those days. Later infections of the mother, following childbirth, was difficult to detect as it happened inside the body and at death this was rarely linked to its origin. By all accounts, the orphan hood in our Farni ancestral lineage was surprisingly high, as can be seen on the table below.

AGE OF OUR DIRECT ANCESTORS AT ORPHANHOO

Generation	Father	Mother	Son	Age at Father's Death	Age at Mother's Death
5	Hans	Anna	**Christen**		
	~ 1671	~ 1688	~ 1718	**36**	**10**
	T. 1754	T. 1728			
	83	40			
6	Christen	Katharina	**Peter**		
	~ 1718	1725	~ 1764	**21**	**5**
	T. 1785	T. 1769			
	67	44			
7	Peter	Magdalena	**Christian**		
	~ 1764	~ 1769	~ 1791	**25**	**1**
	T. 1816	T. 1792			
	52	23			
8	Christian	Magdalena	**Johannes**		
	~ 1791	~ 1807	~ 1841	**0**	**4**
	T. 1841	T. 1845			
	50	38			
9	Johannes	Anna	**Gottfried**		
	~ 1841	~ 1835	~ 1876	**38**	**38**
	T. 1914	T. 1914			
	73	79			

~ = Birth

T. = Death

High Orphan hood in family

The extremely high occurrences of young orphans in our direct ancestral line, four generations in a row, would seem to indicate that there was temporary bad luck in the family. As can be seen from the above orphan hood table, the combined picture that emerges is not a good one at all, denoting some sort of a curse. And yet, our ancestors were comparatively wealthy for this period as is overwhelmingly shown in the many inheritance and other related documents. The many early deaths of the parents, especially of the mothers, leaving behind young and helpless orphans, were definitely not due to a lack of means or of negligence by the family members. It is believed the shortfall in medical knowledge and care was partly to blame.

As can be seen above, our Peter of generation seven lost his young wife Magdalena and was now with two babies in his care. But this is not all, as he himself was orphaned when only five years old, following the death of his mother Katharina Schluchter of generation six. And there was worse to come, with his own son Christian of generation 8. Christian died two months after the birth of his last son Johannes (direct ancestor); and his wife Magdalena Kneubuhl died 4 years after the birth of Johannes. The only positive aspect, however, was that nobody was sent to the orphanage in those days, as the extended family was interdependent and showed solidarity towards those in need. The larger family was taking care of the small children, until the father found a new partner and remarried. This is probably why our ancestors thrived and led truthful, hardworking and successful lives.

Below are some legal contracts related to Peter Farni's dealings during his life:

- 13 July 1793 : Anna Ellenberg, daughter of Barbara Mann and of late Hans Ellenberg, is selling to Peter Farni, with assistance of her councilor C. Joss: The property belonging to her and to her mother, inherited at the death of her father Hans Ellenberg, consisting of a) their home in Gwatt with garden and trees; b) a grazing land named **Schorren;** c) a grazing land named **Gwattzelg.**

  In return, Peter Farni will ensure the maintenance costs of his step daughter, Anna Ellenberg, until her age of confirmation (StABE Bez Thun A 399/46f Kontraktenmanual Nr 9). This was signed one month after Peter Farni married his second wife Barbara Mann-Ellenberg.

- 1798 Burgerverzeichnis decree : This decree, enacted by the Swiss revolutionary government at the instigation of the invading French army, required that all able bodied men of military duty age swear allegiance to French Napoleon Bonaparte. The archives of Bern show our Peter Farni, aged 34 and living in Gwatt, district of Strattligen, having given his oath of allegiance. It is, however, doubtful that our ancestor voluntarily signed his name to this document. He was an artisan and a trader and in the absence of direct evidence, we must presume he was not involved in the war. (StAB; BXIII, Bezirk Thun 441 und Steffisburg 438).

- 2 October 1813 : Peter Farni from Eriz, now resident in Gwatt as merchant and carpenter, purchases from Jacob Kemen living in Reudlen the following:
  One part of a pastureland with a surface of 3 "Juchart" (about 2 hectares) located at the Gwattstutz, in the Strattligen church district.
  (Grundbuch Thun B406 S. 249-252).

- 3 April 1816 : (two months before Peter's death)
  Peter Farni, originating from Eriz, church district of Schwarzenegg, and now residing in Gwatt, municipality of Strattligen :

  sells to his only son, Christian :
  His longstanding and permanent residential properties in Gwatt, comprising 1) the house of residence, 2) the shop and stores, 3) the underground cellars, 4) the nearby carpentry workshop, 5) the cheese making house with furnace, 6) the stables with barn, 7) the guesthouse and garden. All the above are on the same property with a surface of 200 Klafter, all free of mortgage and tax. Included in the above are all the carpentry machines and tools as well as all the wood. Also included are the cheese making machinery and dairy equipment, such as the cheese vats and cuddling buckets.
  Clause of restriction:
  As long as the seller and his wife are alive, they will enjoy full right of use of the above property. However, the buyer has the right to transform the workshops and use the glaziery shop as he wishes. After the death of the seller, the widow will remain in charge of the sales shop. The buyer does not have to pay rent.
  The sales price is Pfund.450.- (current Sfr.33'000.-).
  (Grundbuchampt Thun B407, S. 372-375).

There is no doubt Peter knew he was dying and prepared his departure dutifully.

Peter Farni's Obersuld Alp

Peter also owned an Alprecht (a long term lease of land from the town burghers) on the **Obersuld Alp** in the Aeschi district, near Spiez (Grundbuchampt Thun B407 Band5 S.375f) which he sold to his son Christian and to his son in law Johannes Stahli. The sales was done on 7 May 1816, one month before Peter's death, for Pounds.3'000.- (current Sfr.215'000). The Obersuld Alp region is well known for its distribution of rare plants as described in the Botanical Journal of 7 July 1865 by German botanist Hugo von Mohl. We will never know whether our ancestor Peter Farni knew about the biodiversity existing on his Obersuld Alp; most likely he, took it for granted and was simply busy making his "Alpen Kase" (cheese of the Alps). The current (2014) owners of the Obersuld Alp, with a surface of 116 Hectars, and ranging from between 1300 to 2000 meters in altitude, are still making cheese today, mainly for the many international and local tourists.

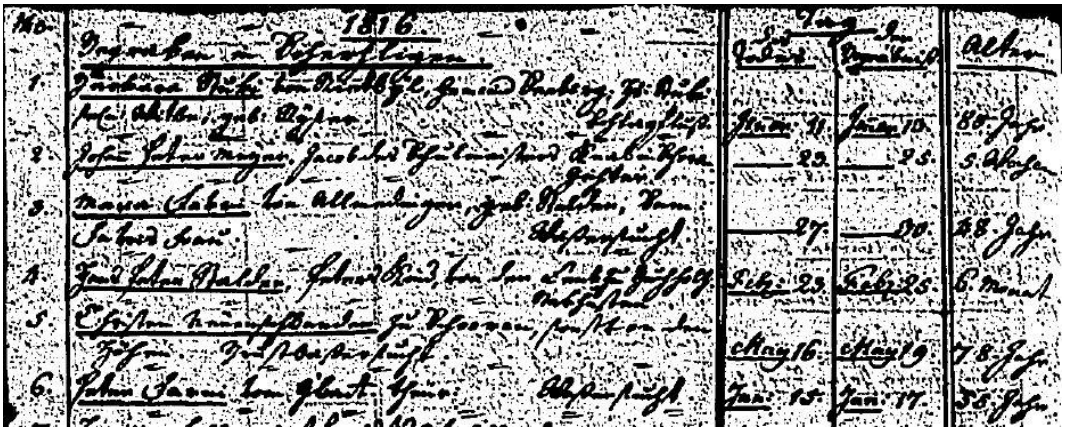


Peter Farni's Obersuld Alp, in Aeschi near Spiez

- 7 May 1816 : (one month before Peter's death)
  Peter Farni, the glazier from Eriz and residing in Gwatt, church district in the municipality of Thun :

  sells in equal parts to his son Christian as well as to his son in law Hans Stahli, miller in Oberhofen and residing in Merligen :
  1) one pastureland in **Schoren** with a surface of 3 ½ Jucharten
  2) one grain field named **Der Anthauptacker** of one half of Jucharten
  3) one grain field named **Das Langackerli** of one half of Jucharten
  4) one grain field named **Das Untere Ackerli** of 120 Klafter
  5) one pastureland near the local Tower, with granary of 3 Jucharten
  Total price of Pfund Pfennige.3'000.-

- 30 October 1816 Allotment : Following the death of Peter Farni, from Eriz Sonnseite, who was all his life a merchant and glazier in Gwatt, his wealth and properties were allocated to his inheritors as follows:
  1. The son Christian Farni, main descendant, living in Gwatt
  2. The daughter Elsbeth Fahrni represented by her husband Hans Stahli
  3. The surviving widow Barbara born Mann, represented by C. Farni.
  We see here two additional grain fields not mentioned before, and follows a long list of house items for a value of Kronen.1'418.- (current Sfr.328'000). (Grundbuchampt Thun B407 Band5 S.391-399).
  Of interest in the house items list is the mention, several times. of books and writing tables and a coffee grinder. Peter Farni died on 15 June 1816, at the young age of 52, of "Wassersucht", meaning hydropsy.



Peter Farni burial on 17 June 1816 (K13Thun140)

The Outcast Farni cousins

You will find below the extraordinary life story of our Farni cousins that diverted from the traditional Farmer/Carpenter/Merchant way of life of our ancestors during the previous eight generations as described earlier. But first, below is a short outline of the grandparents and parents of **Johannes Farni**:

Christen Farni of generation 5, born on 10 Aug.1679, was the last child of Peter and Barbara Itten, who belonged to a successful family clan that had lived in Reudlen near Reichenbach for two generations. Christen Farni married Lucia Schneiter and both lived all their life in Reudlen where they also died. Although Christen had inherited one third of the considerable wealth of his brother Peter in 1727, no inheritance documents were found at the death of Christen. This leads to the strong possibility that he died poor. As is well known, the last child of a family can be spoiled to the extent of being devoid of ambitions. Christen and Lucia had two children which are described below.

Christen Farni of generation 6 was born on 5 Feb.1708 in Reudlen, but there is no data on him for the following 54 years, until he marries Susanna Krebs in 1762 in an unknown location, according to the church books of Reichenbach. The couple is reported to have divorced within one year, without known children. Shortly after, Christen remarries a Madlena Klopfer on 2 Dec.1763 in Uebeschi. Christen and Madlena Klopfer had two children, but the strange fact is that it seems they did not bring up their children. At the death of Christen, his testament dated 20 Mar.1776 is in favour of Christen's sister, Anna Maegert-Farni, and not to his two sons, who were still alive. It looks like their children were given for adoption.

Johannes Farni was born on 1 Apr.1764 in Uebeschi, a small village near Thierachern (K6Thier118). Johannes was 8 years old when his father Christen died, in 1776, and his name was not mentioned on the inheritance will. The data on Johannes in the church books and church tribunals are sparse and confusing, the main reason being that he was a Tinker by profession. A "Kesselflicker" or "Kesselschmied", in those days, was an itinerant person roaming from place to place repairing pots and pans. Tinkers were usually vagabonds with no fixed addresses, living in ostracism away from society, in bad neighbourhoods.

At the age of 25, Johannes married Anna Susanna Pfarrer on 25 Sep.1789 (K13Schw4). Anna Susanna Pfarrer was born into a family of "Wasenmeister", another profession that had little esteem from fellow citizens. Also known as Knackers, the Wasenmeister people were dealing in collecting and disposing of dead animals. They were also used by the authorities as hangmen in case of a death penalty and as gravediggers. They were usually considered as social outcasts, disreputable and fraudulent people living without a settled home outside of mainstream society. Anna Susanna Pfarrer's background of Knackers blended in well with the Tinker profession of Johannes Farni. And there is a likelihood they grew up in the same community where the habit of marrying "the girl next door" was common. These professions can be compared to today's Yeniche people, as door-to-door salesmen with a travellers' lifestyle of pedlars and basket makers.

Johannes Farni divorced from Anna Susanna Pfarrer before October 1803 and he had three more wives, or rather, one official and had children with two more ladies until his death in 1832. According to the church records, Johannes fathered six children, five of whom were born out of wedlock. It was unavoidable that in such low cast environment almost all of the family members were negatively affected. The sons had little choice but to take on the profession of their father. Two of Johannes' sons were likewise described as Kessler/Tinker by profession.



Kesselflicker - Tinker



Wasenmeister - Knacker

French Invasion of Switzerland (1798)

The French Revolution of 1789, with its motto of justice and freedom, did not go unnoticed in the old Swiss Confederation that was still governed by an archaic political structure. The revolution in France preached new ideas such as equality before the law, fraternity and liberty and these were welcome by many among the Swiss population. Undoubtedly, with the exception of the governing oligarchy and the business and land owners. Some Swiss revolutionaries distributed pamphlets; progressive newspapers looked favorably at what was happening in France, the neighboring country, and demanded changes in Switzerland also.

Many conflicts had still not been resolved at that time in the Old Confederation, such as the subject territories, the ruling lordships of the cities versus the farming communities in rural areas, taxation, governance etc. These strong political and social tensions had weakened and distracted the Swiss leadership. Revolts sprang up here and there, encouraged and supported by revolutionary France; canton Vaud rebelled against the rule of Bern, lower Valais against upper Valais, Jura against Basel, St Gallen etc. Gradually, France intervened and annexed peripheral regions such as the Bishopric of Basel, Geneva, Valtellina of the Three Leagues etc.

The reasons for France's aim to annex Switzerland was 1) to establish a buffer against the hostile monarchies of Prussia and Austria, 2) to gain control of the key Alpine passes; and more importantly, 3) to loot the country and to confiscate the gold reserves of the many prosperous Swiss towns and religious institutions. In March 1798, the French Revolutionary army led by Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Switzerland. The Swiss leadership lacked the necessary unity to organize effective opposition to the invaders and Bern was the only canton to put up an armed resistance. But greatly outnumbered, the Bernese troops were defeated, the Old Confederacy collapsed and within one month Switzerland was under French rule.

The subsequent revolts by the local communities, especially in the rural areas, against the occupants were ruthlessly repressed by the French troops, leaving thousands of casualties. One month after the invasion, the Old Confederation of 13 cantons that had existed since 1513 was transformed into a French satellite state named the Helvetic Republic, with a new constitution. The sovereignty of the cantons was abolished and a highly centralized government was set up based on the French system. The invading army confiscated the cities' gold reserves, plundered the many rich monasteries of medieval times and the bursting treasures of the churches. The looted gold and other valuables were transported to Paris in fifteen four-wheel carriages drawn by sixty horses. The new Swiss puppet state agreed to feed the invading French army, and the territory was looted without mercy. In addition, tens of thousands of young Swiss men were forcibly enlisted into the French army and the Swiss armament was confiscated.

The Swiss population did indeed aspire to a change but it strongly resented the invasion by a foreign army. In retrospect, there is no wonder that the Helvetic Republic was highly unpopular, soon after its inception. The new centralized government structure, imposed by the invading power, was contrary to centuries of Swiss federal traditions and to the direct democracy of the "Landsgemeinde". The conservative majority of the population, aka the "Federalists", soon demanded a return to cantonal sovereignty and coup-attempts became frequent. In order to survive, the puppet Swiss regime had to rely on the invading army to keep order, and these forces combined their intervention with the further plundering of many towns and villages. This exhausted the resources of the civil population as the farmers lost their cattle and grains, which were confiscated to feed the invaders.

Gradually, the population deeply resented this foreign presence, especially their loss of independence and self-governance. A decision was taken in mid-1798 that all Swiss men had to swear allegiance to France and to the French controlled Swiss Republic. The Federal archives show that our ancestor, Peter Farni born in 1764 from Eriz, living in Strattligen church district of Gwatt, did in fact submit to the invading French army. Peter Farni swore oath to Napoleon Bonaparte (1798 StAB; BXIII Bezirk Thun 441-Steff.438), but it is not known if this was done voluntarily or under duress. Voluntary enlistments of Swiss men into the French army were rare and the order of swearing oath to France provoked many rebellions throughout the country. But these revolts were severely crashed by the French army with the benediction of their Swiss puppet government.

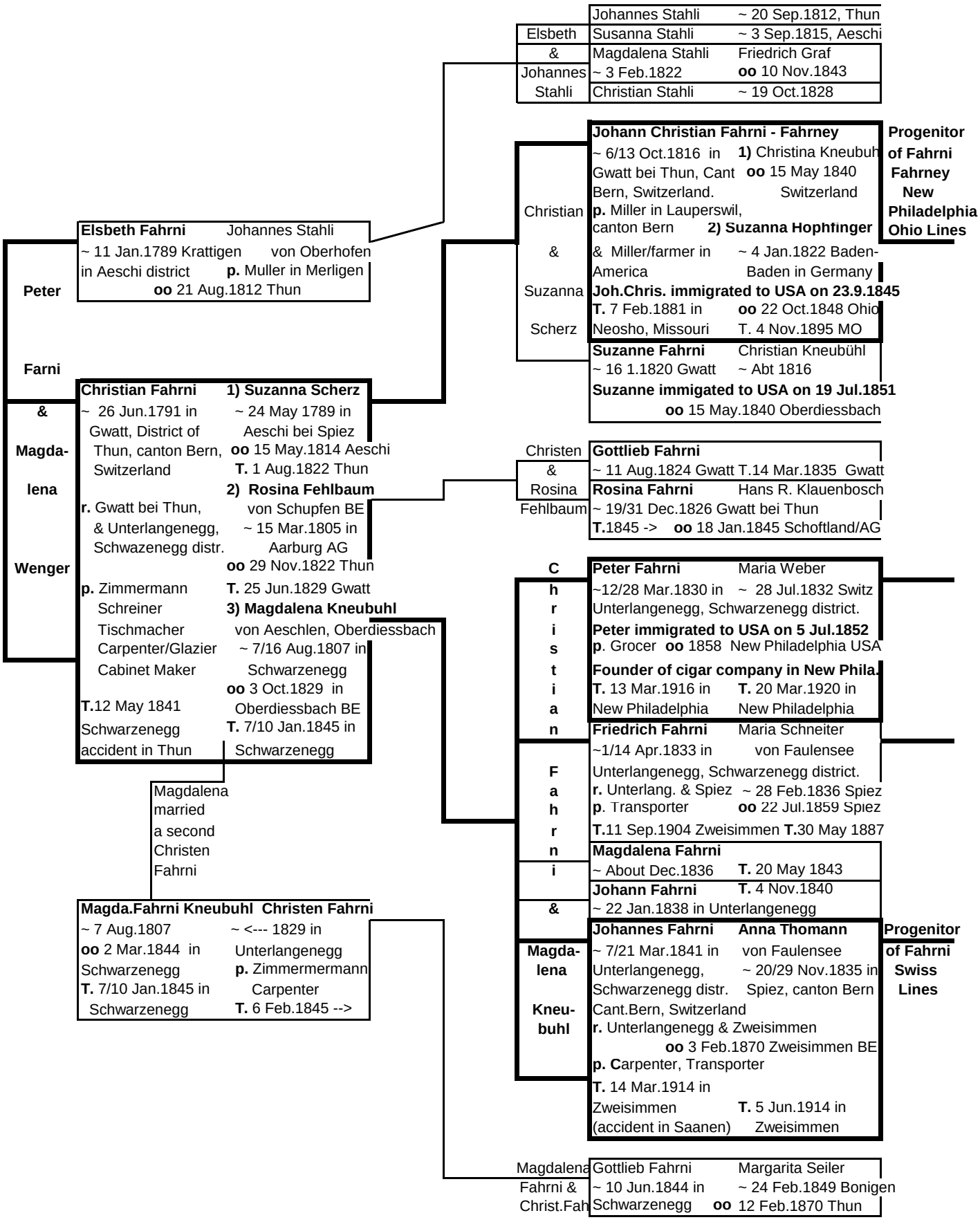
In 1799, only one year after the invasion, Switzerland became the battlefield of the Revolutionary Wars between the French, the Austrian and the Russian armies, causing excessive destructions throughout Switzerland.

The 1802 popular revolt “Stecklikrieg” against the Swiss revolutionaries was finally successful and the Helvetic Republic collapsed. The Federalists returned to power and restored the cantonal sovereignty as well as the “Landsgemeinde” or popular assemblies.

At that same time, the French military dictator Napoleon withdrew his troops from Switzerland. The 1813 downfall of the French empire, ten years later, when Napoleon was defeated at Leipzig, brought about great relief to the Swiss population; it also provided a positive political outlook to Switzerland. There is no doubt that the French invasion had an overall negative impact on Switzerland and delayed the process of reform for many years.



Invading French troops carry off the gold reserves of Zurich in 1798

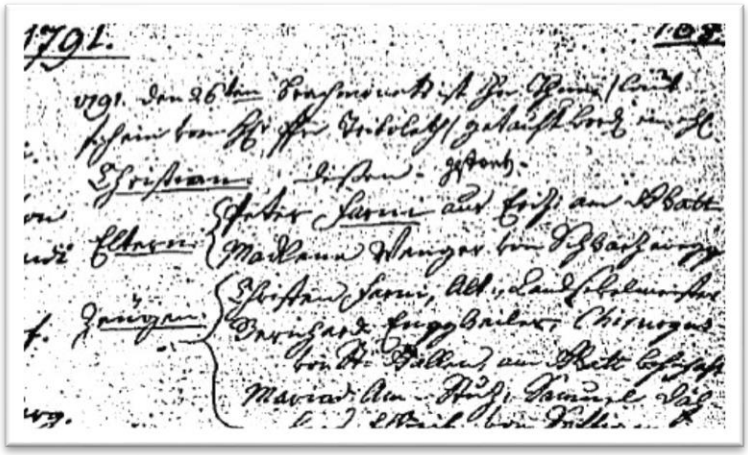

Johannes Stahli ~ 20 Sep.1812, Thun
Elsbeth Susanna Stahli ~ 3 Sep.1815, Aeschi
& Magdalena Stahli Friedrich Graf
Johannes ~ 3 Feb.1822 oo 10 Nov.1843
Stahli Christian Stahli ~ 19 Oct.1828
Elsbeth Fahrni Johannes Stahli
~ 11 Jan.1789 Krattigen von Oberhofen
in Aeschi district p. Muller in Merligen
oo 21 Aug.1812 Thun
Peter
Farni
Christian Fahrni 1) Suzanna Scherz
& ~ 26 Jun.1791 in ~ 24 May 1789 in
Magda- Gwatt, District of Aeschi bei Spiez
lena Thun, canton Bern, oo 15 May.1814 Aeschi
Wenger Switzerland T. 1 Aug.1822 Thun
r. Gwatt bei Thun, 2) Rosina Fehlbaum
& Unterlangenegg, von Schupfen BE
Schwazenegg distr. ~ 15 Mar.1805 in
Aarburg AG
oo 29 Nov.1822 Thun
p. Zimmermann T. 25 Jun.1829 Gwatt
Schreiner 3) Magdalena Kneubuhl
Tischmacher von Aeschlen, Oberdiessbach
Carpenter/Glazier ~ 7/16 Aug.1807 in
Cabinet Maker Schwarzenegg
oo 3 Oct.1829 in
T.12 May 1841 Oberdiessbach BE
Schwarzenegg T. 7/10 Jan.1845 in
accident in Thun Schwarzenegg
Magdalena married a second Christen Fahrni
Magda.Fahrni Kneubuhl Christen Fahrni
~ 7 Aug.1807 ~ <--- 1829 in
oo 2 Mar.1844 in Unterlangenegg
Schwarzenegg p. Zimmermermann
T. 7/10 Jan.1845 in Carpenter
Schwarzenegg T. 6 Feb.1845 -->
Christian & Suzanna Scherz
Johann Christian Fahrni - Fahrney
~ 6/13 Oct.1816 in 1) Christina Kneubuh
Gwatt bei Thun, Cant oo 15 May 1840
Bern, Switzerland. Switzerland
p. Miller in Lauperswil,
canton Bern 2) Suzanna Hophfinger
& Miller/farmer in ~ 4 Jan.1822 Baden-
America Baden in Germany
Joh.Chris. immigrated to USA on 23.9.1845
T. 7 Feb.1881 in oo 22 Oct.1848 Ohio
Neosho, Missouri T. 4 Nov.1895 MO
Progenitor of Fahrni Fahrney New Philadelphia Ohio Lines
Suzanne Fahrni Christian Kneubühl
~ 16 1.1820 Gwatt ~ Abt 1816
Suzanne immigated to USA on 19 Jul.1851
oo 15 May.1840 Oberdiessbach
Christen & Rosina Fehlbaum
Gottlieb Fahrni
~ 11 Aug.1824 Gwatt T.14 Mar.1835 Gwatt
Rosina Fahrni Hans R. Klauenbosch
~ 19/31 Dec.1826 Gwatt bei Thun
T.1845 -> oo 18 Jan.1845 Schoftland/AG
Christian & Magdalena Kneubuhl
Peter Fahrni Maria Weber
~12/28 Mar.1830 in ~ 28 Jul.1832 Switz
Unterlangenegg, Schwarzenegg district.
Peter immigrated to USA on 5 Jul.1852
p. Grocer oo 1858 New Philadelphia USA
Founder of cigar company in New Phila.
T. 13 Mar.1916 in T. 20 Mar.1920 in
New Philadelphia New Philadelphia
Friedrich Fahrni Maria Schneiter
~1/14 Apr.1833 in von Faulensee
Unterlangenegg, Schwarzenegg district.
r. Unterlang. & Spiez ~ 28 Feb.1836 Spiez
p. Transporter oo 22 Jul.1859 Spiez
T.11 Sep.1904 Zweisimmen T.30 May 1887
Magdalena Fahrni
~ About Dec.1836 T. 20 May 1843
Johann Fahrni T. 4 Nov.1840
~ 22 Jan.1838 in Unterlangenegg
Johannes Fahrni Anna Thomann
~ 7/21 Mar.1841 in von Faulensee
Unterlangenegg, ~ 20/29 Nov.1835 in
Schwarzenegg distr. Spiez, canton Bern
Cant.Bern, Switzerland
r. Unterlangenegg & Zweisimmen
oo 3 Feb.1870 Zweisimmen BE
p. Carpenter, Transporter
T. 14 Mar.1914 in
Zweisimmen T. 5 Jun.1914 in
(accident in Saanen) Zweisimmen
Progenitor of Fahrni Swiss Lines
Magdalena Fahrni & Christ.Fah
Gottlieb Fahrni Margarita Seiler
~ 10 Jun.1844 in ~ 24 Feb.1849 Bonigen
Schwarzenegg oo 12 Feb.1870 Thun

Our Christian Fahrni, Generation 8

Elsbeth Fahrni was born nine months after the wedding of her parents, Peter Farni and Magdalena Wenger, and she was baptized on 11 January 1789 in the district church of Aeschi, on Lake Thun. (K3Spiez168). The godfather of Elsbeth was Mr Schifferli, the respectable Bailiff of Thun. She was only four years old when her mother died, giving birth to the third child of the family. At the age of 24, Elsbeth married Johannes Stahli, a miller in Merligen, on 21 August 1812 and together they had four children. The Stahli children were not further investigated, but here they are:
1) Johannes ~ 20 September 1812; 2) Susanna ~ 3 September 1815;
3) Magdalena ~ 3 February 1822 who married a Friedrich Graf, and
4) Christian ~ 19 October 1828.
Elsbeth and her husband Hans inherited part of her father's property as per document dated 7 May 1816, reported under generation 7.

It is important to note the change of name spelling - "Fahrni" with "h" - by the pastors in the church books towards the end of the 18th century.

Christian Fahrni, the second child and only son of the Peter Farni & Magdalena Wenger family, was born in Gwatt and baptized on 26 June 1791 in Thun (K6Schw168). He was scarcely one and a half years old when his mother died, trying to give birth to a third baby. As we saw in generation 7, childbirth death happened much too often in the family. But there is no doubt that Peter's elder siblings and/or the godparents had taken care of his two children until he remarried, half a year later.

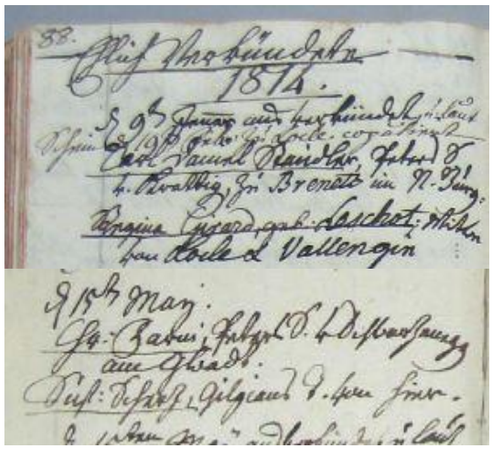

1791.

Christian Fahrni baptism on 26.6.1791

The baptism document in the church book shows that Christian Fahrni had two Godfathers, the Municipal chief accountant and Herr Doktor Chirugus Enggweiler, confirming that the family still had friends of high stature. As the only male child, Christian Fahrni is very important indeed to our family lineage because without him our direct genealogical bloodline would have gone extinct. In addition, without him, there would never have been a Johann Christian Fahrni emigrating to New Philadelphia and producing the very prolific Fahrney line of Ohio.

We saw in the previous generation that Christian had inherited his father's house in Gwatt, including the workshops for carpentry and glaziery as well as the cheese making installation. As the woodwork traditions were handed down over the many Farni generations, it is not surprising that the carpentry skills were also acquired by, and impregnated into, Christian's genes. Needless to say that Christian also carried forward the family's business line of activities.

Suzanna Scherz was Christian's first wife and they married on 15 May, 1814 in the district church of Aeschi (K13Aeschi88). She was born in Aeschi, close to Spiez, on 24 May 1789 (K5Aeschi235) not far away from Gwatt, on the shores of Lake Thun. Here we have another example of the "girl-next-door" marriage, so common in those days. Suzanna was just 25 at her wedding.



Wedding of Christian Fahrni with Suzanna Scherz on 15 May 1814.

Christian and Suzanna had their first child in 1816, the famous Johann Christian Fahrni who later emigrated to the USA and founded the Fahrney line with so abundant offspring. Their second child, Suzanne, was born three years later, in 1820, and the details of these two children will be given under the next generation. Three years later, bad luck struck once more our family with the death of 33 year old Suzanna, leaving behind two young orphans of 2 and 6 years. Suzanna Fahrni-Scherz died only eight years after the wedding. She was buried in the Scherzligen church, located on the outskirts of Thun, on the 1st of August 1822 (K13Thun).



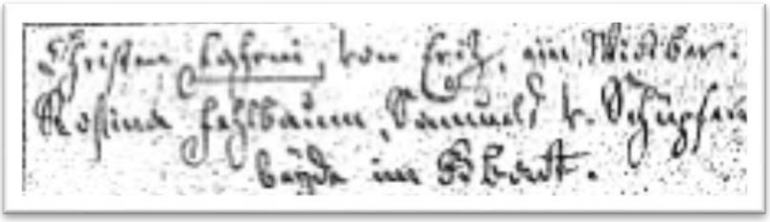
Burial of Suzanna Fahrni-Scherz on 1st August 1822

It should not be difficult to understand why our Christian remarried just four months after the loss of his wife Suzanna. If anything, there was an urgent need for someone to care for his two young children, Johann Christian and Suzanne. The tragedy he had suffered himself, when he became a one-year-old orphan, replicated itself with his own children. Considering that his second wife Rosina was only 17 years old at the wedding - and came from Aarburg, which is not quite next door - my guess would be that this second wedding was arranged, although no direct evidence on this matter is available. Our Christian Fahrni married Rosina Fehlbaum on 29 November 1822 in Gwatt.

Rosina Fehlbaum was born on 15 March 1805 in Aarburg, canton Aargau. After her wedding, at the very young age of 17, she took on the charge of looking after her husband's two young children. The Christian and Rosina couple had two children together, first Gottlieb, born on 11 August 1824, who died at the age of 11. Their second child was Rosina, born on 19 December 1826 in Gwatt (K7Schw196) who married a Hans Klauenbosch in 1845.

In 1829, barely seven years after the wedding, Christian lost his second wife, possibly also at child birth. Rosina was buried on 25 June 1829 in Gwatt (K17Schw87); she was barely 24 years old. It would be needless to try to visualize the sad and difficult situation Christian Fahrni found himself in. Indeed, having lost his two wives in a time span of seven years (1822 and 1829), he was now totally alone with four children from his two late wives, Johann Christian 13, Suzanne 9, Gottlieb 5, and Rosina 3.

Wedding of Christian Fahrni with Rosina Fehlbaum on 29 Nov.1822 (K3Thun16).



Burial of Rosina Fehlbaum on 25 Jun.1829 in Gwatt bei Thun.



Christian Fahrni sells his assets in Gwatt

As a result of such sorrowful tragedies of being widowed twice in a timespan of only seven years, Christian took the decision to move away from Gwatt. He settled down in Unterlangenegg, in the Schwarzenegg church district of his ancestors, on the north-eastern side of Lake Thun. Unfortunately, it is difficult to shed much light on Christian's moving away from his village of Gwatt. The picture provided by the vital statistics is not very clear, as many documents are missing on his property and land sales before his departure to Unterlangenegg. But the documents in our possession should provide a glimpse into his financial dealings in the Gwatt region as below:

- 25 Mar.1820 : Christian Fahrni, carpenter from Eriz and residing in Gwatt sells his grazing land of Strattligen to Samuel Fellers (Grundbuch Thun B09 (7) 420).

- 11 July 1820 : Christian Fahrni from Eriz in Schwarzenegg living in Gwatt sells his grain field at the Buchholz Zelg in Strattligen to Johann S. Blauer (Grundbuch Thun B409 (7) 366).

- 20 December 1820 : Christian Fahrni, carpenter from Eriz and residing in Gwatt, church district of Thun, mortgages a house to Adrienne Fisher, born Millenet, for the amount of Kronen.250.- (Grundbuchampt Thun B410 (8) S. 25).

- 31 July 1822 : Christian Fahrni, carpenter in Gwatt, from Eriz, sells a grazing land in Schoren, half his Anthaupt land and his Gwattmoos to Samuel Studer and the regiment of Thun. (Grundbuch Thun B410 (8) 98).

- Authorization of 17 February 1823 : During a session of the Municipality of Eriz of that date, the following was agreed with Christian Fahrni who has citizenship rights of our commune, but resides in Gwatt. Christian Fahrni has two children from his first marriage with Suzanna Scherz, now deceased, and has recently married Rosina Fehlbaum. He wants to secure a proper inheritance contract in favor of his two children through Eriz, his commune.

- 22 February 1823 & 18 September 1823 : These two transactions are connected to the Authorization of 17 February above and have a reference with the Civil Code of the Steffisburg. A concise description of these deals is as follows:
  1) Christian Fahrni sells his Gwatt properties to the Commune of Eriz
  2) The Eriz commune transfers the Christian Fahrni properties to his children
  3) Johann Christian Fahrni and Suzanne Fahrni surrender the possession rights of their properties to their father, Christian Fahrni.

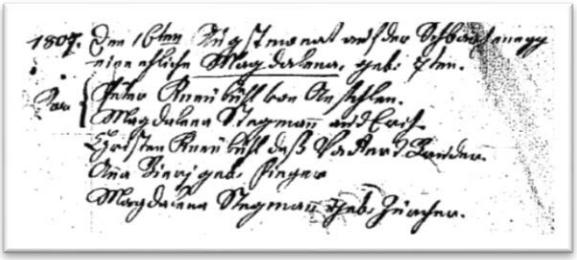
  (Grundbuchampt Thun B 411 & B 171/380-385).

Several properties in Gwatt that Christian had inherited from his father, Peter, could not be traced. In the absence of direct evidence, we must assume they were sold before his relocation to Unterlangenegg, in around 1829. And the best conclusion we can draw from the available documentation is that Christian sold all his Gwatt properties and moved his carpentry and glaziery equipment and tools to Unterlangenegg and started a new life with his four young children.

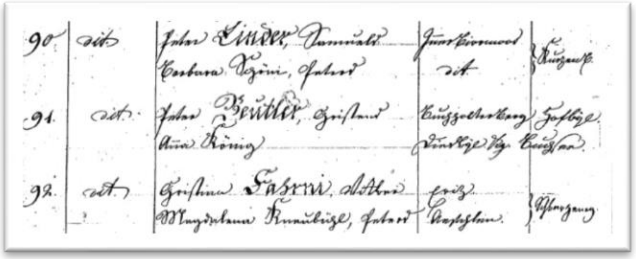


Christian Fahrni's 1829 relocation from Gwatt to Unterlangenegg, located on the North Eastern side of Lake Thun.

Magdalena Kneubuhl was the third wife of our Christian Fahrni and they married on 3rd of October 1829 in Oberdiessbach (K13Schw117). She was 22 and he was 38 years old. Magdalena was born in Aeschlen, Oberdiessbach church district, on 7 August and baptized on 16 August 1807 (K14Oberd213). Oberdiessbach is located 15 km North of Lake Thun, next to Schwarzenegg.



Baptism of Magdalena Kneubuhl on 16 August 1807 in Oberdiessbach.



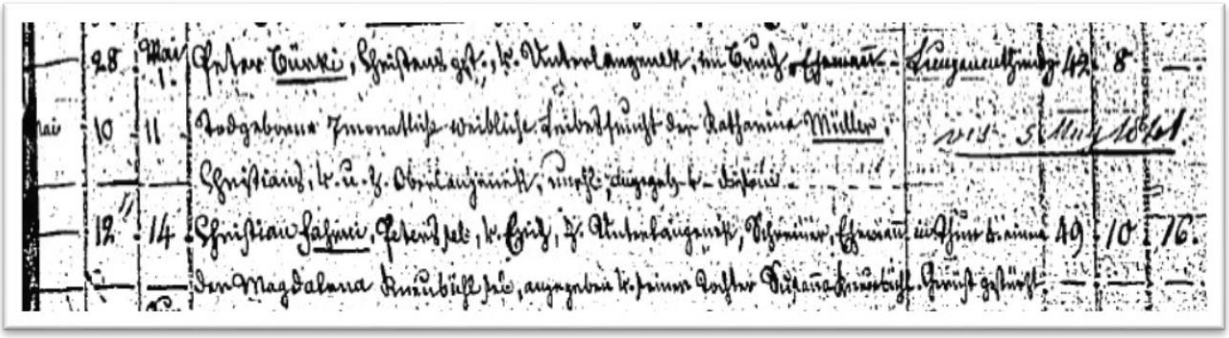
Wedding of Christian Fahrni and Magdalena Kneubuhl on 3 Oct.1829.

For Magdalena to marry a man of 16 years her senior had seemingly not posed a problem, but to take charge of four children from Christian's two preceding marriages must undoubtedly have been a challenge for the 22 year old newlywed. Especially, considering that her now stepson, Johann Christian, was already a 13-year-old boy, being barely 9 years her junior.

It was a surprise to discover that Magdalena was already three months pregnant at her wedding, in early October. In retrospect, Christian was widowed only three months and one week before marrying Magdalena and their first child, Peter, was born on 12 March 1830. These dates could possibly suggest that Christian had impregnated Magdalena approximately two weeks before the death of his wife Rosina. The time between the death of Rosina and the birth of Peter is 262 days instead of the expected 275 pregnancy days. However, this deviation could be explained with a pre-term birth of Peter. In any case, there is no intent here to assert a negative perception of our ancestors, and the insight of the true facts will remain an open question.

Christian Fahrni and Magdalena Kneubuhl are the progenitors of the Swiss Fahrni lines. They had a total of five children together, which were all born in Unterlangenegg, and only three survived, namely Peter, Friedrich and Johannes. Peter emigrated to the USA to join his half-brother Johann Christian who had left Switzerland earlier. Friedrich stayed in Switzerland but several of his children emigrated to the USA. Johannes remained in his Swiss mountains and is the direct bloodline ancestor of the Swiss lines. The life stories of these three descendants will be described under generation 9.

No further information is available on the Christian & Magdalena couple until 12th May 1841, when Christian fell to his death from a scaffolding in Thun. Given his profession as a carpenter, it is assumed he was involved in the timber-work on a roof at the time of the accident. Christian would have celebrated his fiftieth anniversary one month later. It is sobering to see that ill fortune dealt another blow to our line of ancestry. Christian's last son, Johannes, the progenitor of the Swiss direct lineage, was just two months old at the death of his father. But then, we all owe our existence to a series of events in which luck or misfortune plays a significant role. And fate must have awaited our ancestors round some unexpected corner in their existence and enabled them to carry our bloodline forward.



Burial of Christian Fahrni on 12 May 1841 in the Schwarzenegg church. (K13Schw17 & BR1Eriz377)

Since Christian died by accident, no testament existed for the distribution of the assets to his descendants. But before looking at legal documents dealing with inheritance matters, I will attempt to describe as best I can the personal situation of the surviving wife Magdalena and of the six children of the diseased. Just emerging from childbirth only two months before, how did Magdalena adapt to this dramatic and sorrowful situation? She had given birth to five children during her twelve years of marriage with Christian, and has now become a 34 year old widow. The two children of Christian's first marriage, Johann Christian (23) and Suzanne (21) had already left the family home. Johann Christian was a miller in nearby Lauperswil and Susanne had married one year before. Rosina, the surviving child of Christian's second marriage, was 15 and probably still living at home. Then we have Magdalena's own surviving children; Peter (11), Friedrich (8) and the two-month-old baby Johannes.

Available legal documents leave no doubt that late Christian Fahrni had close ties to family members who would guide Magdalena to raise the three teenage children. Christian's own sister Elizabeth, whose husband Johannes Stahli, was godfather to young Peter, would be available for advice. Most importantly, Christian and his brother in law Johannes Stahli had been the joint inheritors of the Fahrni's estate in Gwatt. Some years earlier, Christian and Johannes had also bought land together and, if anything, the family ties were strong. Besides, we can see that Magdalena was close to her brother Peter Kneubuhl, who was godfather to three of her children. Christian also purchased land from Peter Kneubuhl in 1837. The conclusion that can be drawn from the above is that widowed Magdalena had close family to turn to in these tragic circumstances.

Christian Fahrni's estate settlement was recorded six months after his death, on 4 November 1841, and it reads as below:
Following the death of Christian Fahrni, old carpenter from Eriz who resided in Unterlangenegg, the inheritors below were formally nominated:
- Johann Christian Fahrni, miller in Lauperswil
- Suzanne Fahrni, wife of Christian Kneubuhl

and they legally sold onwards their father's assets to the successive inheritors:
- Rosina Fahrni, daughter of Christian Fahrni's second marriage
- Magdalena Fahrni-Kneubuhl, Christian's widow, in lieu of her own children Peter, Friedrich and Johannes.

The estate settlement concerns Christian's property named "Hanni", located in Unterlangenegg, comprising the main house with a large barn and surrounding land with a surface of 4 Jucharten (20'000 m2).

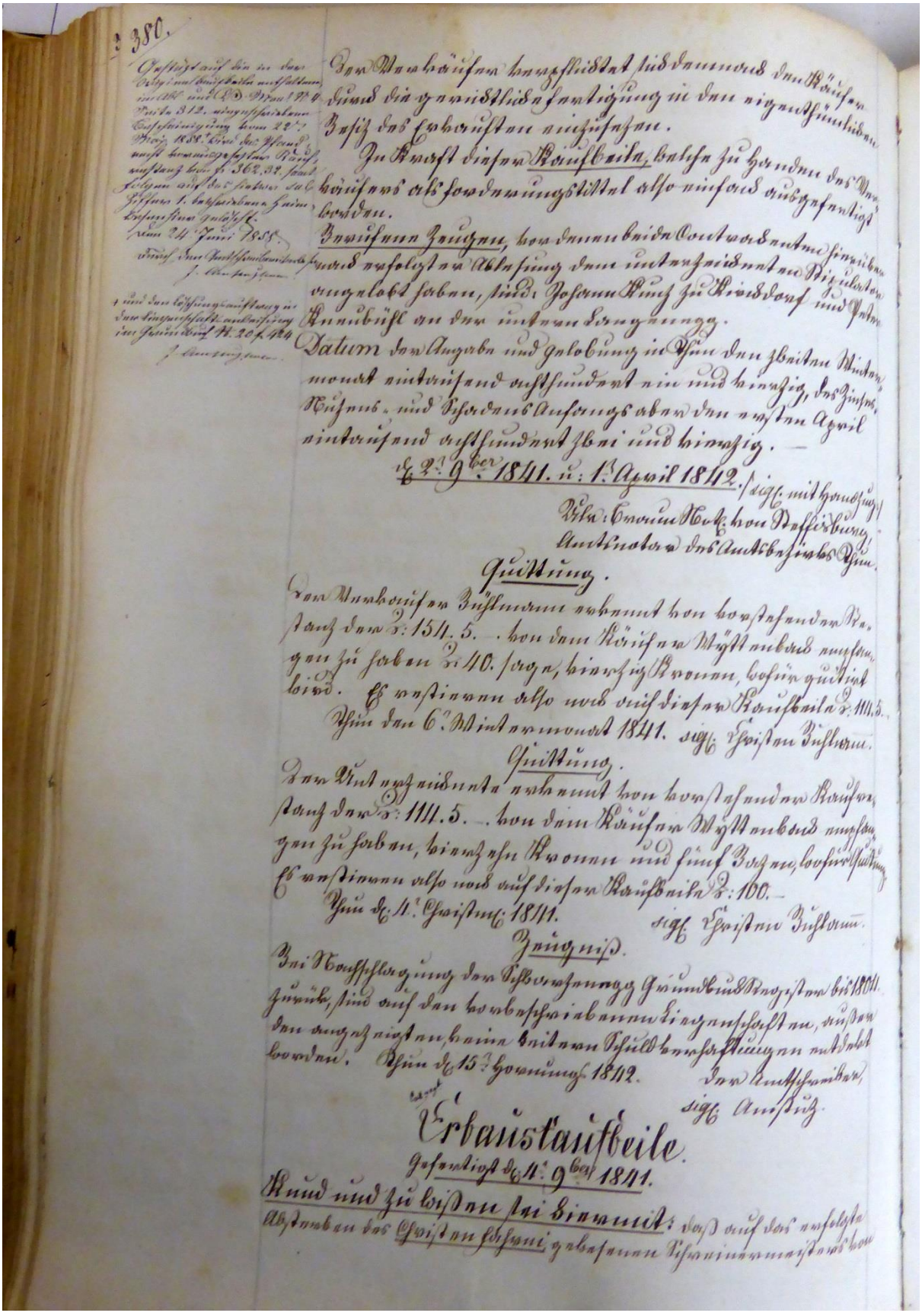
Other land in Schwarzenegg district included in the settlement are:

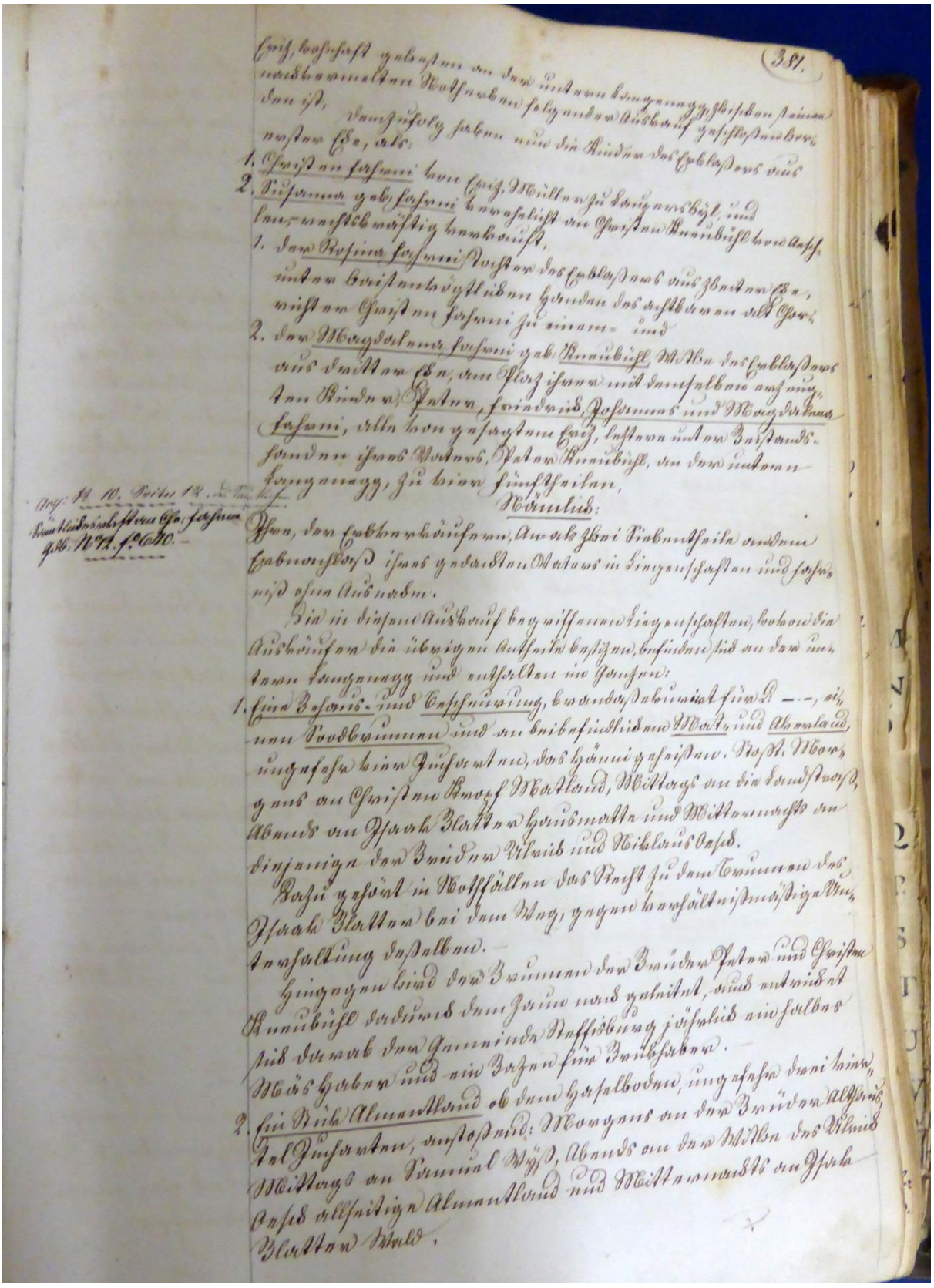
- One agricultural land named "Ob Haselboden" of 4 Jucharten surface
- One forest named "Auf dem Haselboden" of 1 Jucharte
- One agricultural land named „Hinter Zaune" of 4 Jucharten
- One "Torfmoos" land (peat moss) named "Trappmoos" of 1 ½ Jucharten
- One forest named "Fuchsegg" of 1 ¼ Jucharten

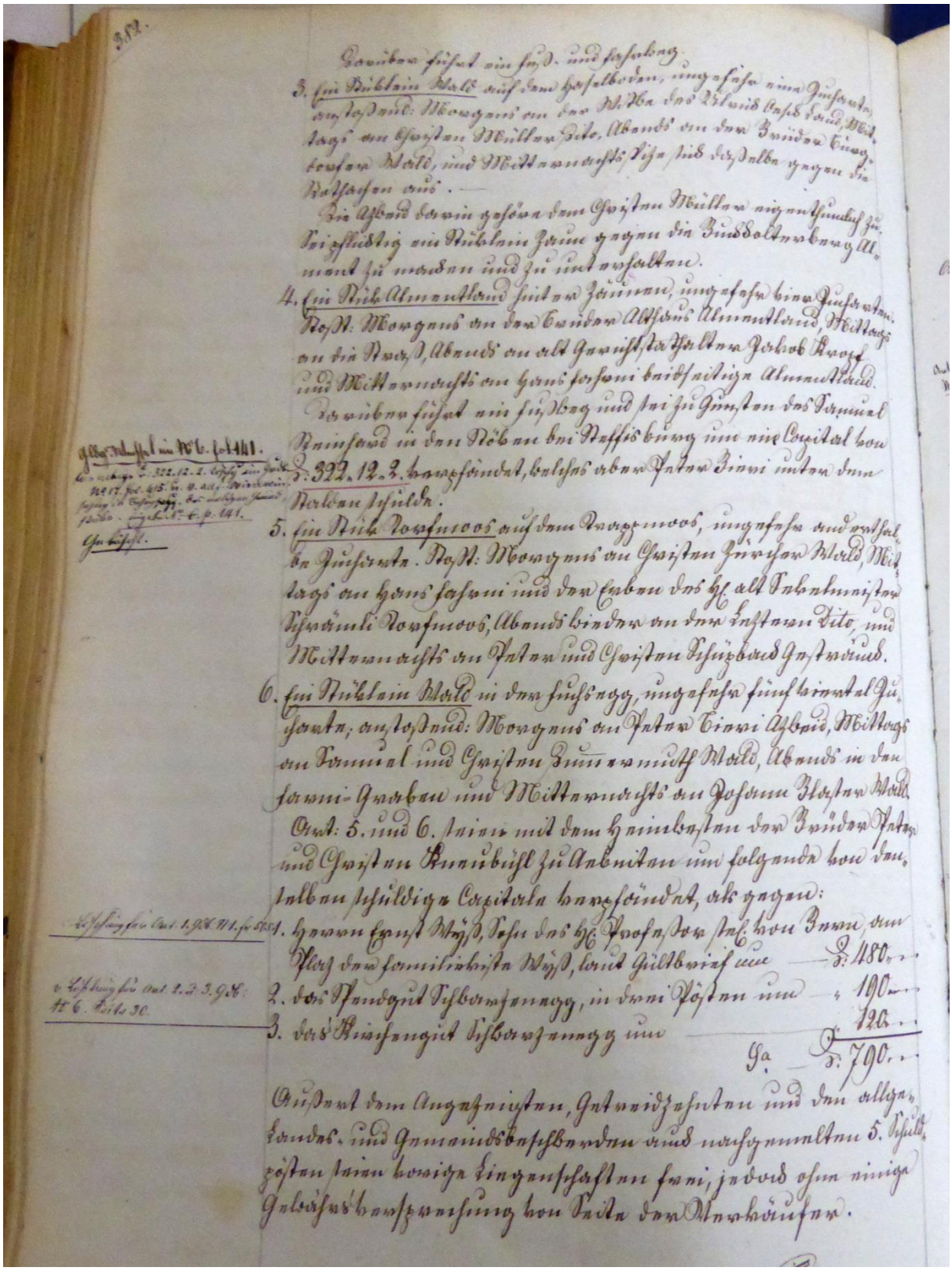
The term "Jucharte" was a Swiss measurement of an area of land that a man could plow in one day with his horse. The surface of a Jucharte would be different from one canton to the other. In canton Bern, one Jucharte represents about 5'000 m2. The total surface of the above distribution of property amounts to 16 Jucharten or 80'000 square meters.

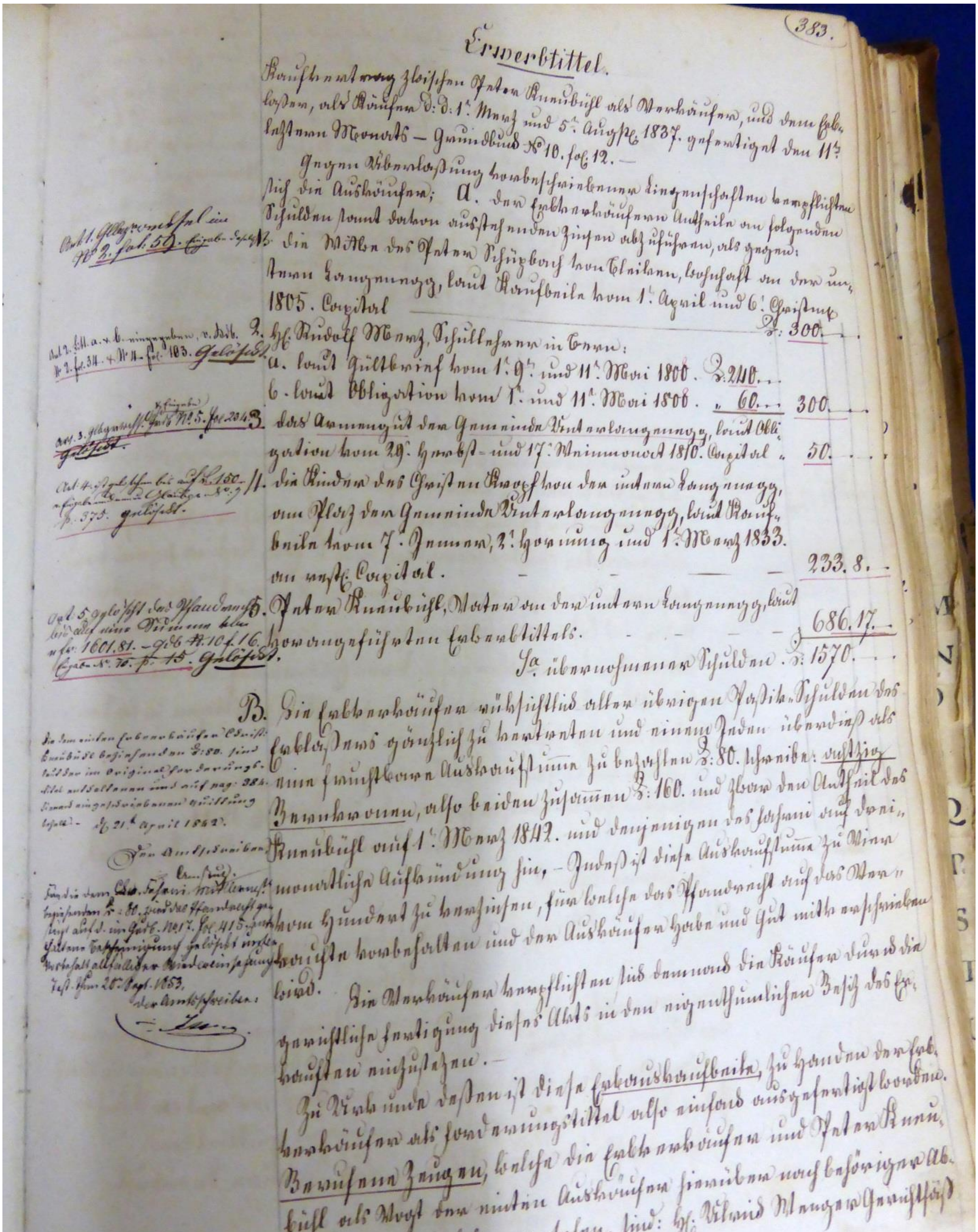
(Grundbuchampt Thun.B171/380-385 – Schwarzenegg Nr 11). (4 Nov.1841)

Hereafter are copies of the above inheritance and distribution of assets contracts in hand written Old German and a succinct translation into Modern German.








(383.)

Erwerbtittel.

... 1. März und 5. August 1837. ... Grundbuch No 10. fol. 12.

... 1805. Capital ... Fr. 300.

... a. ... vom 1. 9. und 11. Mai 1806. Fr. 240.

b. ... Obligation vom 1. und 11. Mai 1806. " 60. ... 300.

... 1810. Capital ... 50.

... 1833. ... 233. 8.

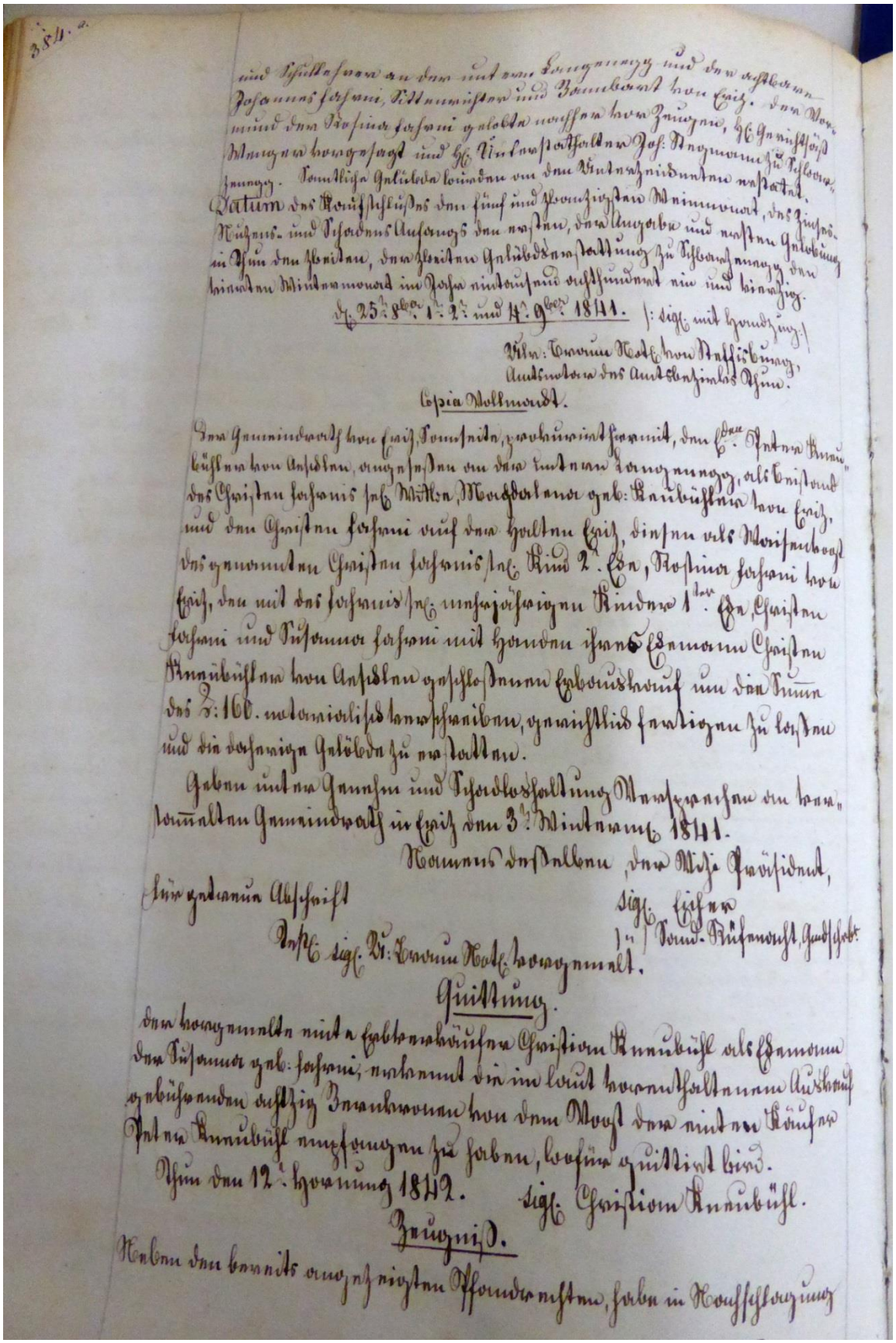
... 686. 17.

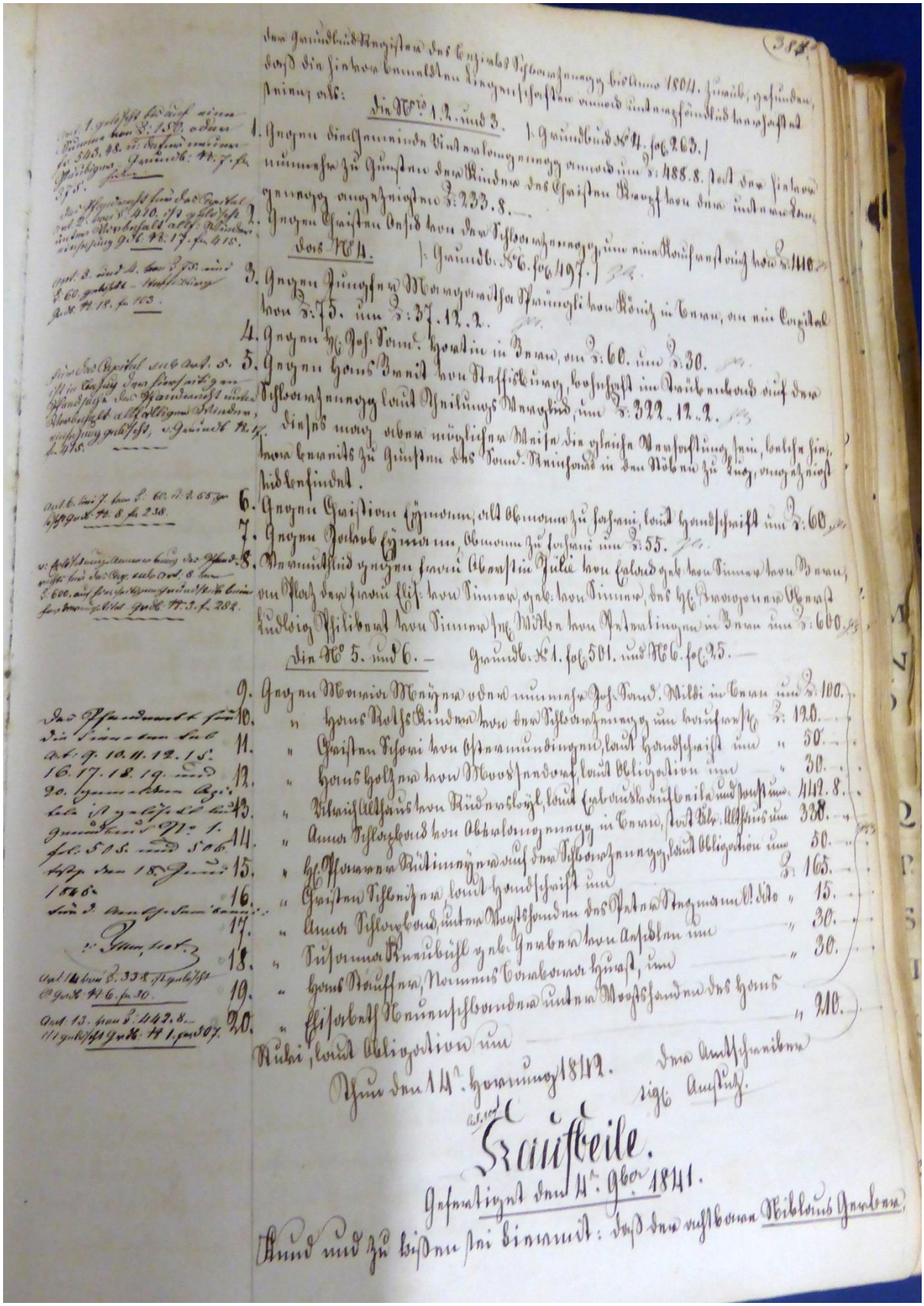
... Fr. 1570.

... Fr. 80. ... Fr. 160. ... 1. März 1842. ...

... 21. April 1842.

... 28. Sept. 1853.





150	**SUCCINCT TRANSLATION INTO MODERN GERMAN** **DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS** GRUNDBUCHAMPT THUN B 171 SEITEN 380-385	
	Erbauskaufbeile Gefertigt den 4.11.1841 Kund und zu wissen sei, dass auf das Absterben des **Christian Fahrni**, gewesener Schreinermeister von Eriz, wohnhaft gewesen auf der unteren Langenegg, zwischen seinen hier gemeldeten Noterben folgender Auskauf gefasst worden ist. Demzufolge haben nun die Kinder des Erblassers aus erster Ehe, als 1. Johann Christian Fahrni von Eriz, Müller zu Lauperswil und 2. Susanne geborene Fahrni, verehelicht an Christen Kneubühl von Aeschlen rechtsmässig **verkauft:** 1. Der Susanne Fahrni, Tochter des Erblassers aus zweiter Ehe unter vögtlichen Handen des achtbaren Johann Christian Fahrni zum einen und 2. Der Magdalena Fahrni, geb. Kneubühl, Witwe des Erblassers aus dritter Ehe, am Platz ihrer mit demselben erzeugten Kinder, Peter, Friedrich, Johannes und Magdalena Fahrni, alle von gesagtem Eriz, letztere unter Beistandshanden ihres Vaters, an der untern Langenegg zu vier Fünfteln nämlich	
… Nr. 10 Seite 12 des sämtlichen … Christen Fahrni, Grundbuch Nr. 12, S. 640	Ihre, der Erbverkäufern an- als zwei Siebenteile an dem Erbnachlass ihres gedachten Vaters in Liegenschaften und Fahrnis ohne Ausnahme. Die in diesem Auskauf begriffenen Liegenschaften, wovon die Auskäufer die übrigen Anteile besitzen, befinden sich an der unteren Langenegg und enthalten im Ganzen: 1. Ein Haus und Scheune, brandversichert für Pfund -.- einen Sodbrunnen und an dabei befindlichem Matt- und Ackerland ungefähr vier Jucharten, **Das Hänni** geheissen. Die Liegenschaftsgrenzen stossen morgens an Christen Kropfs Mattland, Mittags an die Landstrasse, abends an Isaak Blatters Hausmatte und mitternachts an dasjenige der Brüder Ulrich und Niklaus Oesch. Dazu gehört in Notfällen das Recht zu dem Brunnen des Isaak Blatter bei dem [Kreuz]weg, gegen verhältnismässigen Unterhalt desselben.	

Hingegen wird der Brunnen der Brüder Peter und Christen Kneubühl dadurch dem Zaun nach geleitet und entrichtet sich darab der Gemeinde Steffisburg jährlich ein halbes Mäss Haver und ein Batzen für Brückhafer.

2. Ein Stück Allmendland ob dem Haselboden, ungefähr ¾ Jucharten, anstossend: Morgens an der Brüder Althaus, mittags an Samuel Wyss, abends an der Witwe des Ulrich Oesch allseitiges Almentland und mitternachts an Isak Blatters Wald. Darüber führt ein Fuss- und Fahrweg.

3 Ein Stücklein Wald auf dem Haselboden, ungefähr eine Jucharte, stässt: morgens an der Witwe des Ulrich Oeschs Land, mittags an Christen Müllers dito, abends an der Brüder Burgdorfers Wald und mitternachts spitze sich dasselbe gegen die Rotache aus.

Die Weide darin gehöre dem Christen Müller eigentümlich zu. Sei pflichtig, ein Stücklein Zaun gegen die Buchholterberg-Allmend zu machen und zu unterhalten.

4 Ein Stücklein Allmendland hinter Zäunen, ungefähr vier Jucharten. Es stösst, morgens an der Brüder Althausens Allmendland, mittags an die Strasse und abends an alt Gerichtsstatthalter Jakob Kropf und mitternachts an Hans Fahrnis beidseitiges Allmendland. Darüber führt ein Fussweg und es sei zu Gunsten Samuel Reinhard in den Stöcken bei Steffisburg um ein Kapital von Kronen 322.12.2 verpfändet, welches aber Peter Bieri unter dem Stalden schulde

5 Ein Stück Torfmoos auf dem Traggmoos, ungefähr 1 ½ Jucharte. Stösst: Morgens an Christen Zürchers Wald, mittags an Hans Fahrni und der Erben des Herrn alt Seckelmeister Schrämlis Torfmoos, abends wieder an der letzteren dito, und mitternachts an Peter und Christen Schüpbachs Gesträuch.

6 Ein Stücklein Wald in der Fuchsegg, ungefähr 1 ¼ Jucharten, anstossend: Morgens an Peter Bieris Weide, mittags an Samuel und Christen Dummermuths Wald, Abens an den Fahrni-Graben und mitternachts an Johann Blasers [ev. Blatters] Wald.

Artikel 5 und 6 seien mit dem Heimwesen der Brüder Peter und Christen Kneubühl zu Äbniten um folgende von denselben schuldige Kapitale verpfändet, als gegen:

1. Herrn Ernst Wyss, Sohn des Herrn Professor selig von Bern am Platz der Familienkiste Wyss laut Gültbrief um 480 Krone
2. Das Spendgut Schwarzenegg in drei posten um 190 Krone und 120 Krone
3. Das Kirchengut Schwarzenegg um 790 Krone

152	
Ausser dem angezeigten Getreidezehnten und den allgemeinen Landes und Gemeindebeschwerden, auch den nachgemeldeten 5 Schuldposten seinen die vorigen [die Vorher gemeldeten] Liegenschaften frei, jedoch ohne irgendwelche Gewährsversprechung von Seite der Verkäufer	
Erwerbstitel Kaufvertrag zwischen Peter Kneubühl als Verkäufer und dem Erblasser als Käufer vom 1. März und 5. August, gefertigt den 11. Letzteren Monates, Grundbuch Nr. 10. Folio 12	
Gegen Überlassung vorbeschriebener Liegenschaften verpflichten sich die Auskäufer:	
Die Anteile der Erbverkäufer an folgenden Schulden samt davon ausstehenden Zinsen abzuführen als gegen	Kronen
1. Die Witwe des Peter Schüpbach von Bleiken, wohnhaft an der unteren Langenegg laut Kaufbeile vom 1. April und 6. Dezember 1805	300
2. Herrn Rudolf Merz, Schullehrer in Bern a) Laut Gültbrief vom 1. und 11.5.1800, Kronen 240 b) Laut Obligation vom 1. Und 11.5.1800 Kronen 60	300
3. Das Armengut der Gemeinde Unterlangenegg, laut Obligation vom 29. Herbst und 17. Weinmonat 1810	50
4. Die Kinder des Christen Kropf von der unteren Langenegg am Platz der Gemeinde Unterlangenegg, laut Kaufbeile vom 7. anuar, 2. Hornung und 1. März 1833 an Kapital	233.8
5. Peter Kneubühl, Vater, an der unteren Langenegg, laut vorangeführten Erwerbstitel	686.17
Übernommene Schulden	**1570**
Die Erbverkäufer in Rücksicht aller übrigen Schulden des Erblassers gänzlich zu vertreten und einem jeden überdies als eine fruchtbare Auskaufssume zu bezahlen 80 Kronen, also beide zusammen 160 Kronen, und zwar den Anteil des Kneübühl auf 1. März 1842 und denjenigen des Fahrni auf dreimonatliche Aufkündigung hin. Indess ist diese Auskaufsumme zu 4 % zu verzinsen, für welche das Pfandrecht auf das Verkaufte vorbehalten ist und der Auskäufer Hab und Gut mit verschrieben wird	

Zu Urkunde dessen ist diese Erbauskaufsbeile zu Handen der Erbverkäufer als Forderungsmittel also einfach ausgefertigt worden.

Berufene Zeugen, welche die Erbverkäufer und Peter Kneubühl als vogt der einen Auskäufer hierüber und behörige Ablesung haben geloben gesehen sind: Herrn Ulrich Wagner, Gerichtsäss und Schullehrer an der unteren Langenegg und der achtbare Johannes Fahrni, Sittenrichter und Bannwart von Eriz, der Vormund der Rosina Fahrni, gelobte nachher vor Zeugen, Herrn Gerichtsäss Wenger vorgesagt und Herrn Unterstatthalter Johann Stegmann zu Schwarzenegg. Sämtliche Gelübde wurden von den Unterzeichneten erstattet. Datum des Kaufschlusses den fünfundzwanzigsten Weinmonat, des Zinses-, Nutzens- und Schadens Anfangs den ersten, der Angabe und ersten Gelobung in Thun den zweiten, der zweiten Gelübdeerstattung zu Schwarzenegg den vierten Wintermonat im Jahr eintausendachthunderteineinundvierzig, den 25.10., 1.,. und 4 November 1841, signiert mit Handzeichen Ulrich Braun, Notar von Steffisburg, Amtsnotar des Amtsbezirks Thun.

Kopie Vollmacht
Der Gemeinderat von Eriz Sonnseite prokuriert hiermit dem ehrenden Peter Kneubühler von Aeschlen, angesessen an der unteren Langenegg, als Beistand des Christian Fahrnis selig Witwe Magdalena, geb. Kneubühler von Eriz, und den Christian Fahrni auf der Halten Eriz, diesen als Waisenvogt des genannten Christian Fahrnis sel. Kind 2.Ehrende Rosina Fahrni von Eriz, den mit der Fahrni seligen minderjährigen Kinder 1. Ehrende Johann Christian Fahrni und Susanna Fahrni mit Handen ihres Ehemannes Christen Kneübuhler von Aeschlen geschlossenen Erbauskauf um die Summe des Kronen 160 notarialisch verschreiben, gerichtlich fertigen zu lassen und die Gelübde zu erstatten.
Gegeben unter Genehmigung und Schadloshaltung Versprechen an vermeldeten Gemeinderat in Eriz am 3. Wintermonat 1841,
namens desselben der Vizepräsident,
für getreue Abschrift sig Eicher usw. … …

Quittung
Der vorgemeldete einte Erbverkäufer Christian Kneubühl als Ehemann der Susanna geb. Fahrni erkennt die im laut vorentaltenem Auskauf gebührenden achtzig Bernkronen von dem Vogt der einten Käufer Peter Kneubühl empfangen zu haben, worauf quitiert wird.
Thun den 12. Hornung 1842, sig Christian Kneubühl

Zeugnis
Neben den bereits angezeigten Pfandbriefen habe in Nachschlagung der Grundbuchregister des Bezirks Schwarzenegg bis Anno 1804 darüber gefunden, dass die hievor gemeldeten Liegenschaften noch unterpfändilch verhaftet sind.

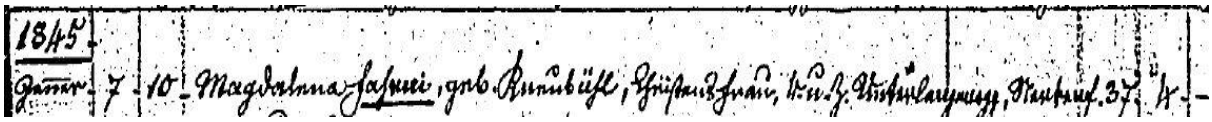
[Zusammenfassung über die geschuldeten Beträge der unterpfändlichen Haftungen] der Liegenschaften

1. Zugunsten der Kinder des Christen Knopf 233 Kronen
2. Zugunsten Christen Oesch von der Schwarzenegg 140 Kronen
3. Zugunsten Jungfrau Margaritha Sprüngli von Köniz 75 und 37 Kronen
4. Zugunsten Johann Sand in Bern 60 und 30 Kronen
5. Zugunsten Hans Breit von Steffisburg 322 Kronen
6. Zugunsten Christian Eymann 60 Kronen

Magdalena Fahrni-Kneubuhl remarried on 2 March 1844 in Schwarzenegg (BR01Eriz377 & K14Schw60), three years after the death of her husband Christian. The irony is that Magdalena's second husband was also a Fahrni, and more, a **Christen** (instead of the first **Christian)** Fahrni. And the new Christen was also a carpenter. However, we can rest assured that there is no mistake as the church books and other vital statistics clearly differentiate the two. The first Christian had Eriz as place of citizenship and was born in 1791. On the other hand, the new Christen had Langenegg/ Schwarzenegg as origin and was born in 1807. Furthermore, the indisputable proof is that the new Christen had parents by the name of Peter Fahrni and Elisabeth Streit.

From this new wedlock, Magdalena Fahrni-Fahrni-Kneubuhl gave birth to a son named Gottlieb, on 10 June 1844. This Gottlieb married a Margarita Seiler on 12th February 1870 in Thun, but his descendants were not researched.

Magdalena Fahrni-Fahrni-Kneubuhl died on the 7th and was buried on the 10th of January 1845 in Schwarzenegg ((K17Schw136). Her death occurred only seven months after giving birth to Gottlieb. The pastor gave the cause of Magdalena's death as "Nervenfieber", meaning Typhoid fever, an illness that was quite common in those days. Also known as Typhus Abdominalis, it is caused by bacteria in the stomach due to unclean water intake.



Burial of Magdalena Fahrni-Fahrni, born Kneubuhl, on 10 Jan.1845 in Schwarzenegg (K17Schw136)

Following the demise of Magdalena Fahrni-Fahrni-Kneubuhl, a new distribution of assets was laid out with estate settlement document dated 6th of February, 1845 and registered under (Thun B172/640-647). This document allocated the properties, as listed in the 4 November 1841 contract, in equal parts, to the following beneficiaries:

- Rosina Klauenbosch. born Fahrni, of Christian's second marriage

- Peter Fahrni, 15 years old

- Friedrich Fahrni, 12 years old

- Johannes Fahrni, 4 years old.

The three above named orphans of Christian Fahrni and Magdalena Kneubuhl (now both deceased) were still minor, and were under the guardianship and protection of their half-brother Johann Christian Fahrni, the 29 years old miller of Lauperswil.

The inheritance settlement and distribution of assets and properties, following the demise of Christian Fahrni, in 1841, and of his third wife Magdalena, in February 1845, are indicated below.

- The property named "Hanni" comprising the main house with barn and Surrounding land of 4 Jucharten (20'000 m2)

- One agricultural land named "Ob Haselboden" of 4 Jucharten surface

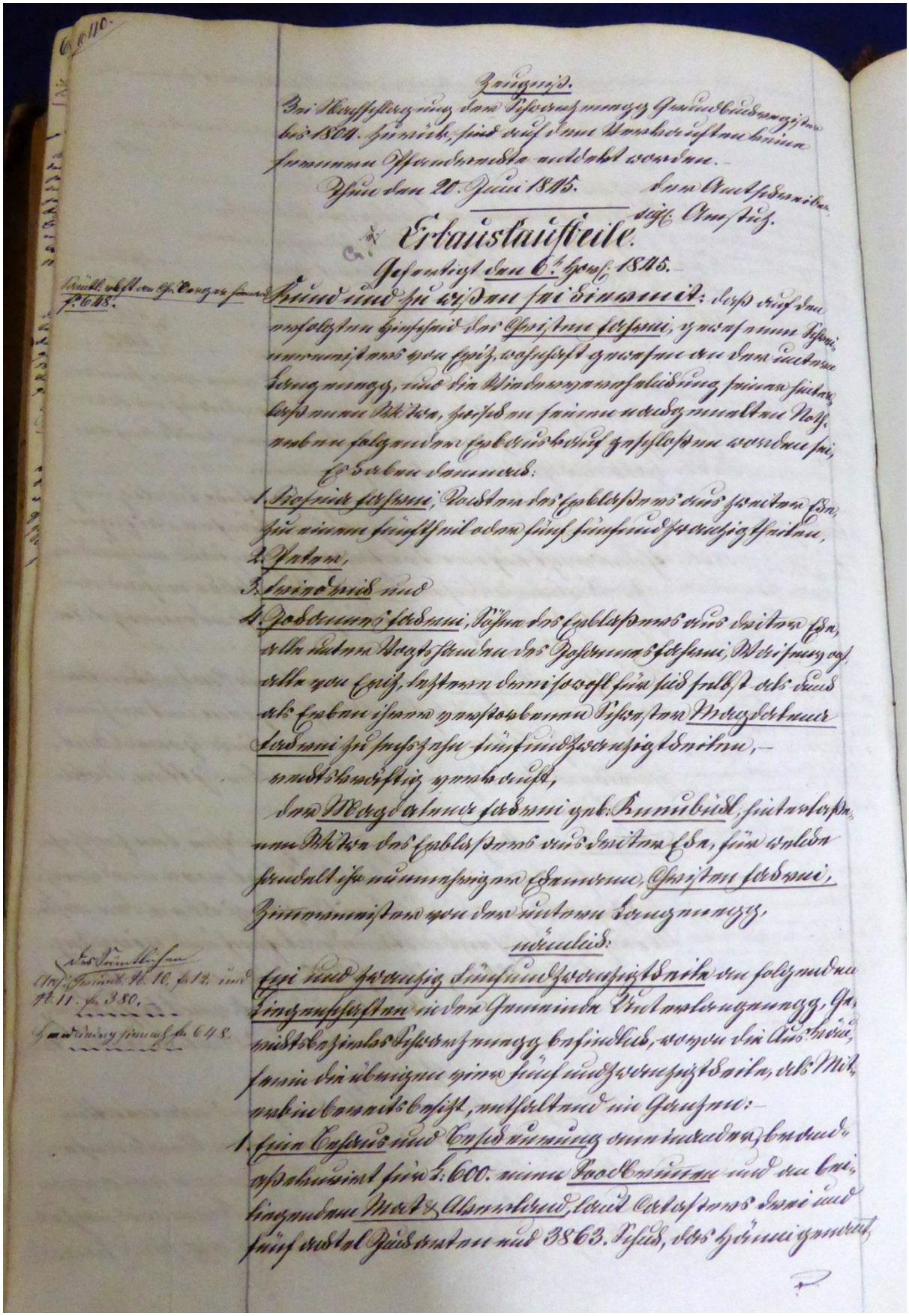
- One forest named "Auf dem Haselboden" of 1 Jucharte

- One agricultural land named „Hinter Zaune" of 4 Jucharten

- One "Torfmoos" land (peat moss) named "Trappmoos" of 1 ½ Jucharten

- One forest named "Fuchsegg" of 1 ¼ Jucharten

Hereafter are copies of the above inheritance and distribution of assets contracts in hand-written Old German and a succinct translation into Modern German.



Zeugnis.

Bei Verfassung dieses Theilungs-Grundbuches bis 1804. hinüber, sind auf diese Amtshandlung keine Gerichtskosten aufgelaufen worden.

Thun den 20. Juni 1815. Der Gerichtsschreiber sig: Amstein.

Erbtheilungsbrief.

Gethan den 6ten Hornung 1815.

Kündet und zu wissen sei hiemit: Als nach dem Absterben der Ehe-leute Hansen, gewesenen Vogts zu Spiez, verschiedene Jahre dem Tode Ihrer Kinder, wie die Abtheilungsaufschreibung seiner Hinterlassenschaft, deren Theilen, auf seinem Todbette mündlich gemachte Verordnung, und die Erbtheilung hierüber festgesetzt worden sei,

Erschienen:

1. Barbara Hansen, Wittwe des Verblichenen und Theilerin Ehr, für sich selbsten und als Vormünderin ihrer Kinder,
2. Hansen,
3. Heinrich und
4. Jacob Hansen, Söhne des Verblichenen und Theilern Ehr, alle drei Vogtsleute des Verstorbenen Hansen, Wirthes auf dem Berg zu Spiez, letztern dreien sowohl für sich selbst als auch als Ehehalten ihres Vaters gemeldten Theilen Mitgebrüder Hansen sie Theilsgenossen hinwiederum,

und Theilsbeklagte gemeldet,

dann Berg-Johannes Hansen gnb. Burnibach, Vormünder der Kinder des Verblichenen und Theilern Ehr, für welche freundlich sie nämlichen Johannes Hansen, Zimmermann und von dem nämlichen Spiez gebürtig,

anerkannt:

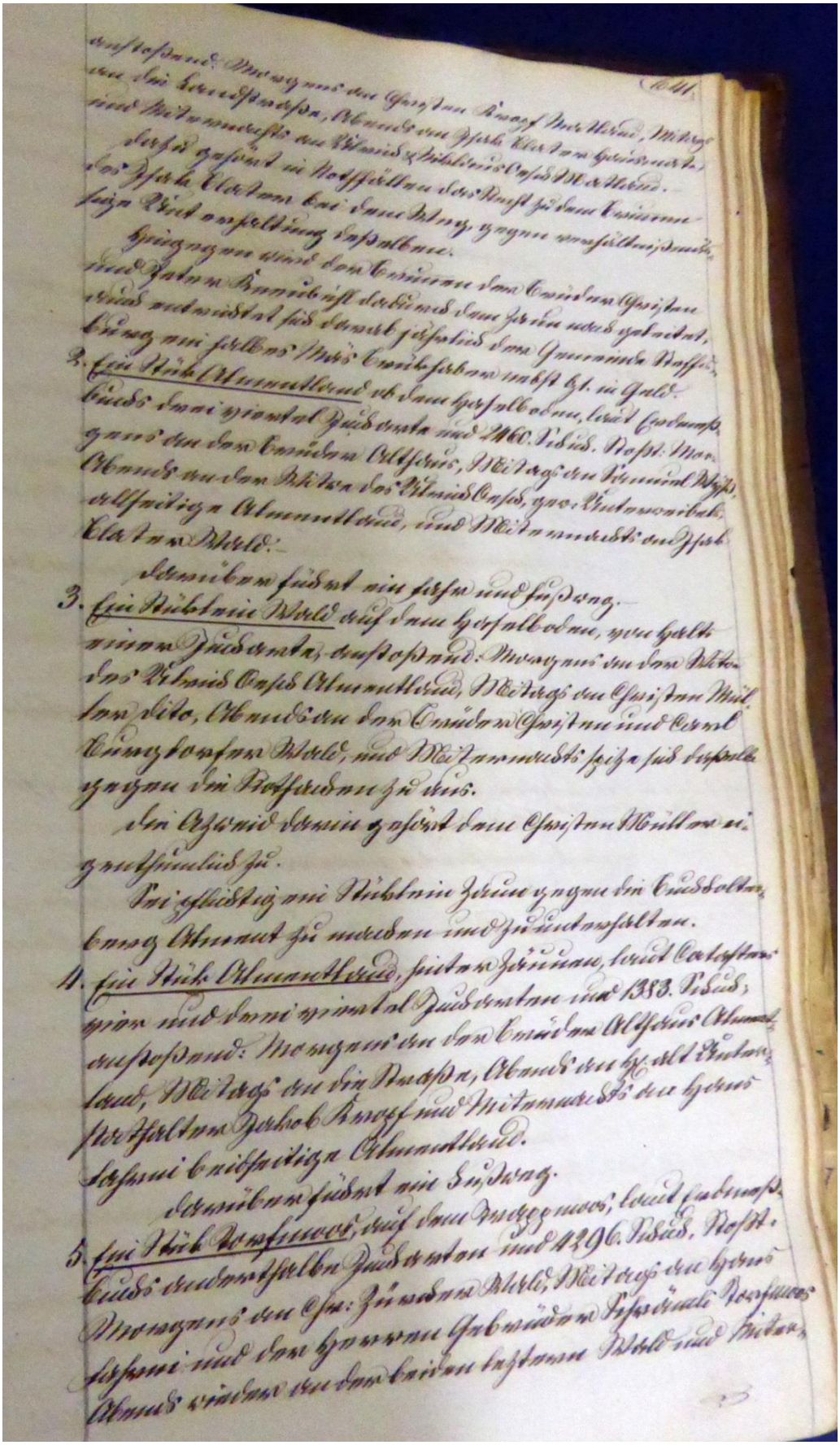
Es seien und verweise diesfalls die Theilsgenossen in den Inventarien und Theilungsbrief, Ge-richtsbezirks Thun Nro. 10. fo. 12. und Nro. 11. fo. 380.

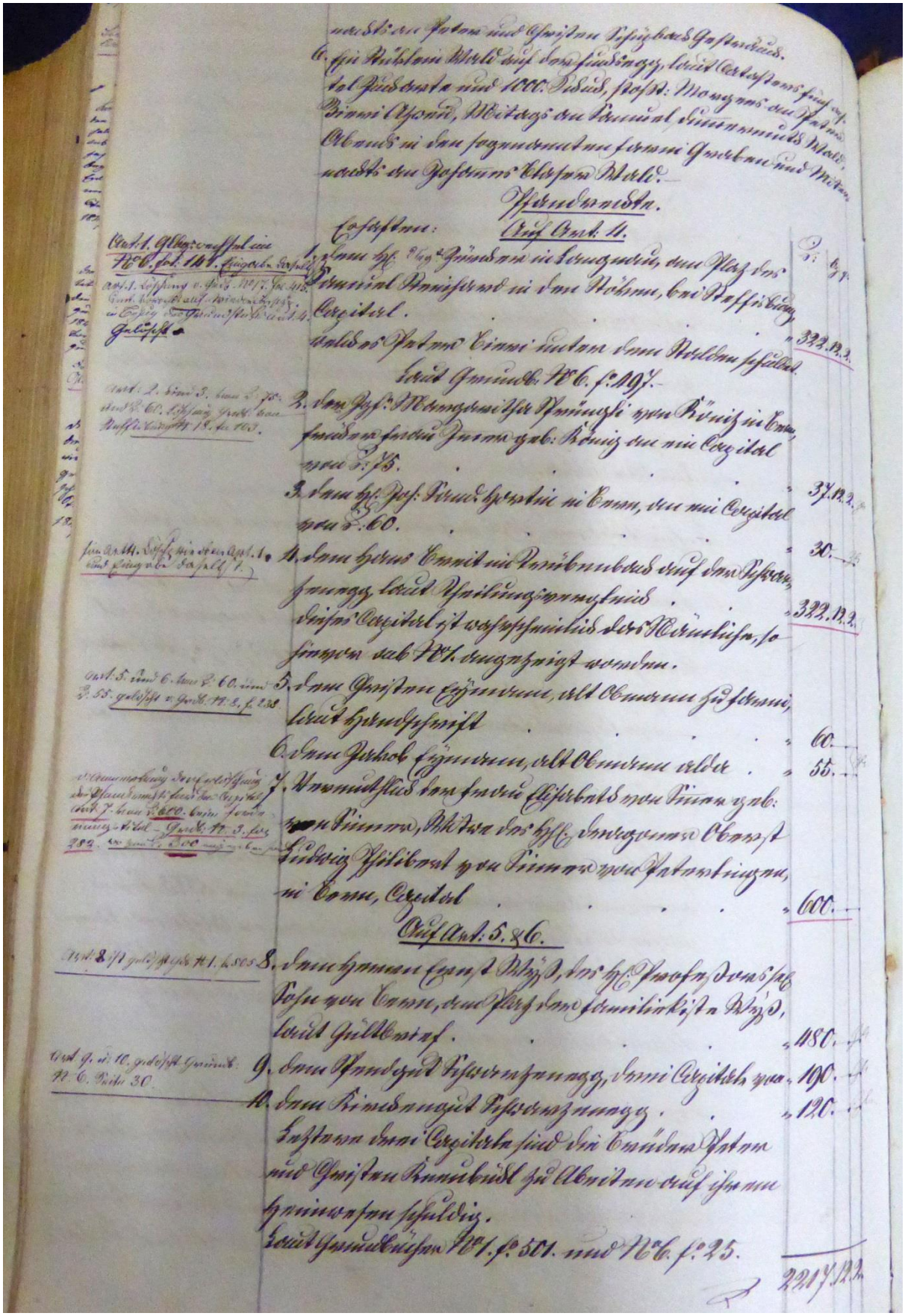
Verordnung Original fo. 648.

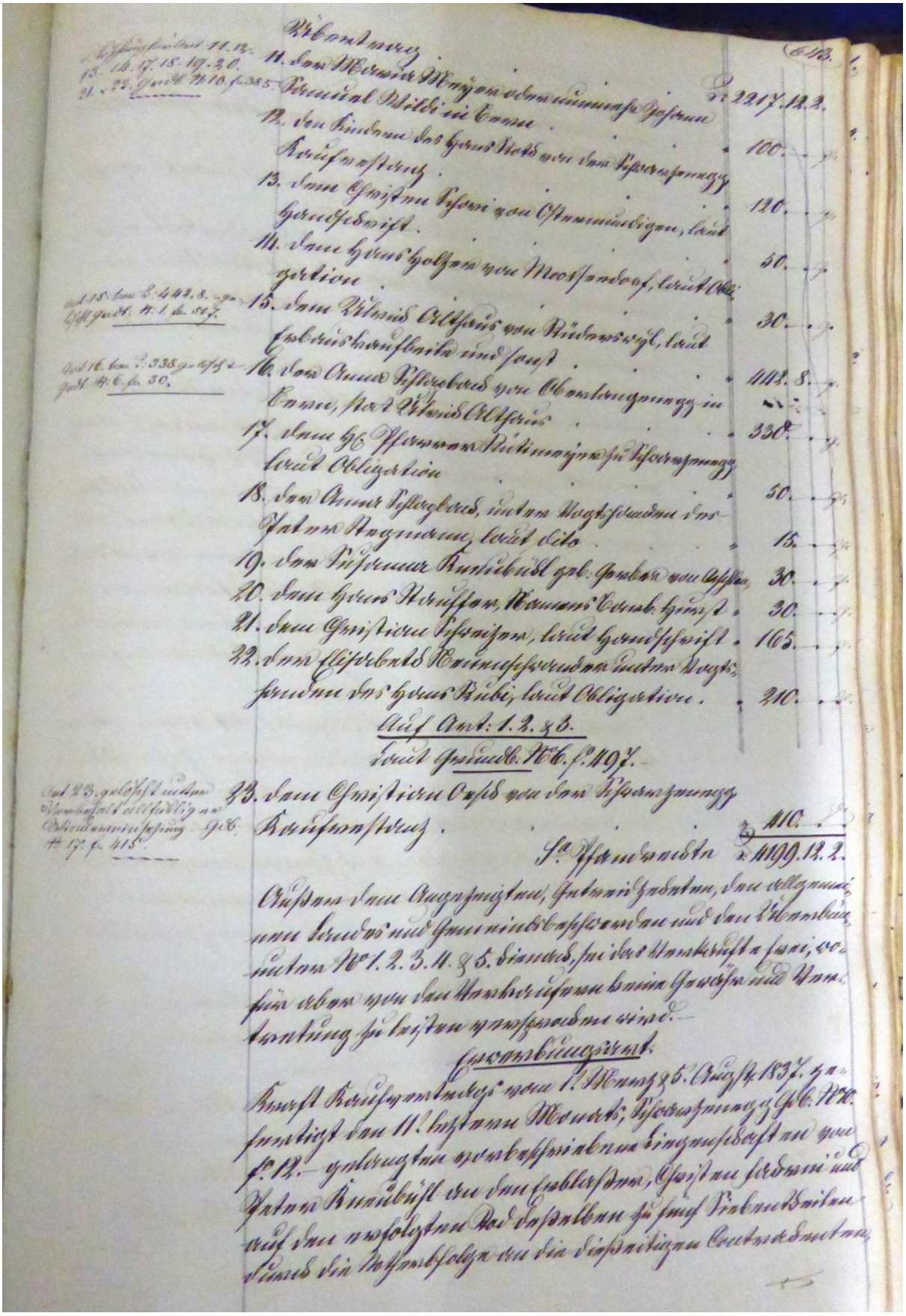
sie hinwiederum sich, als Theilsbeklagte, wegen die Abtheilung, als Mit-theilsgenossen, aufgelaufene Gerichtskosten:

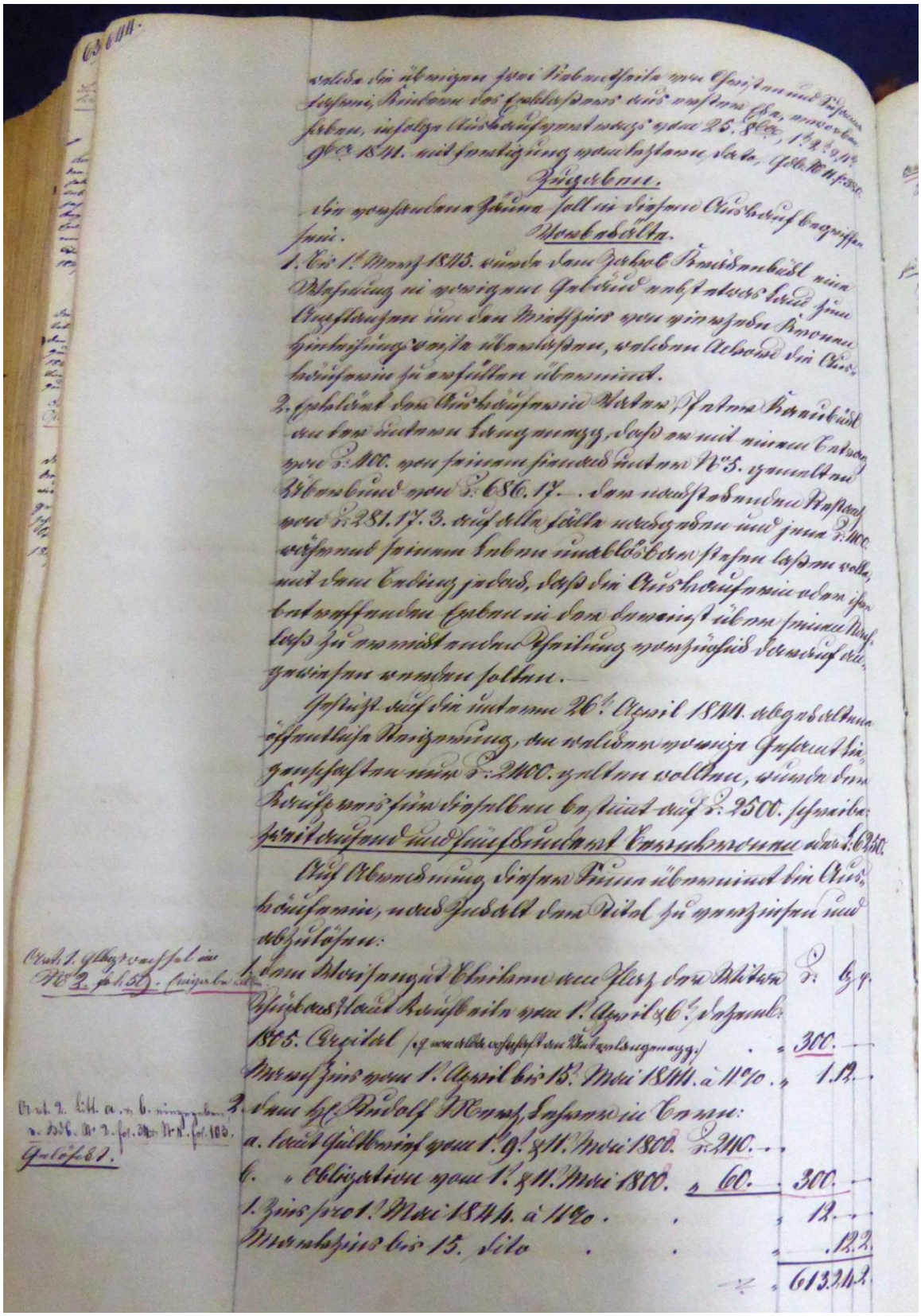
1. Ihren Theil und Theilsantheil an der laut Verordnung dem Verstorbenen zugehörigen Gesammtheit per L. 600. nämlich Sechshundert und den Ein-tausend Acht Achtzehnten, laut Theilungsbrief de Anno fünf und Achtzehnten und 1863. Pfund, das heimgefallen

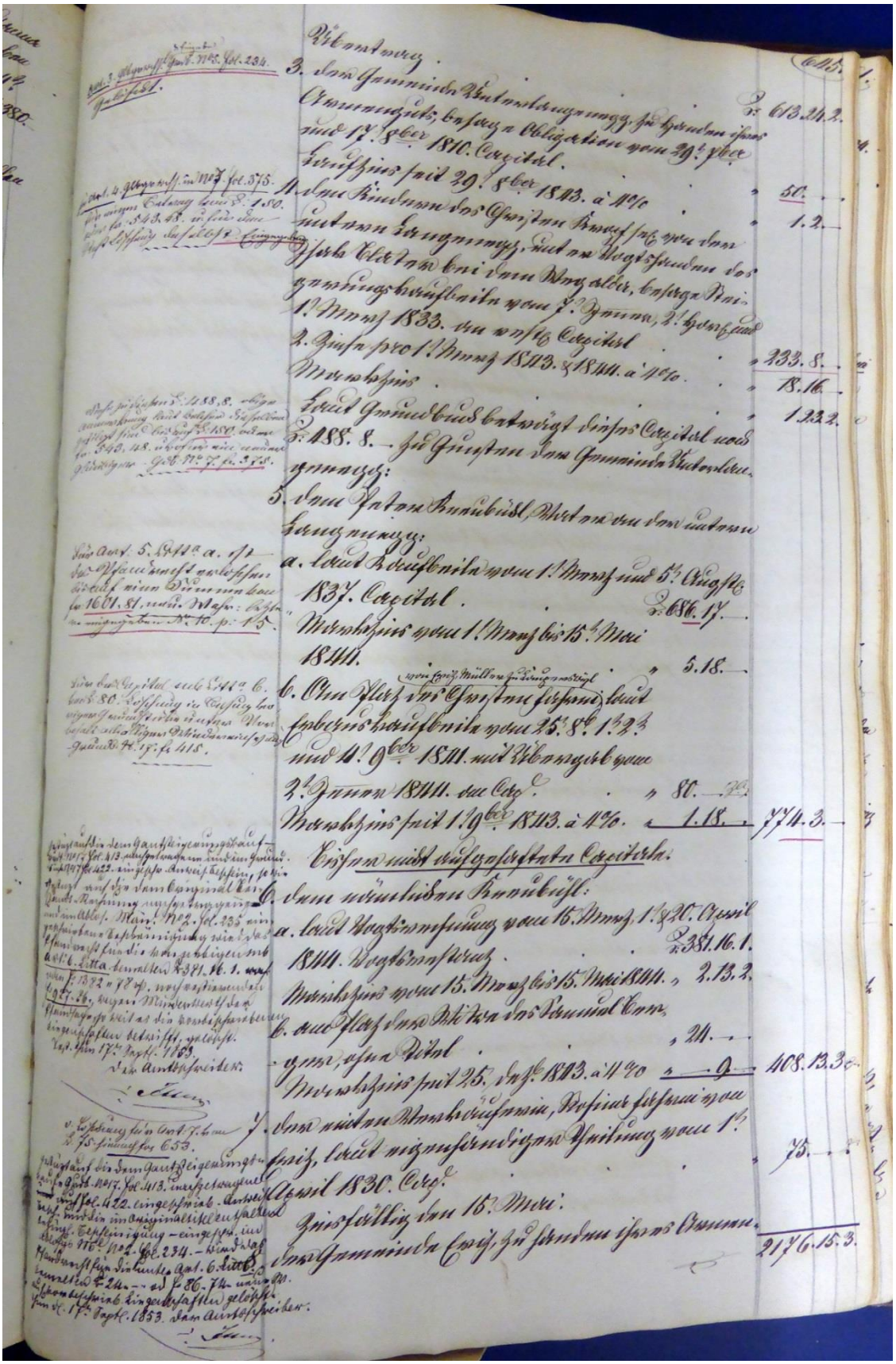
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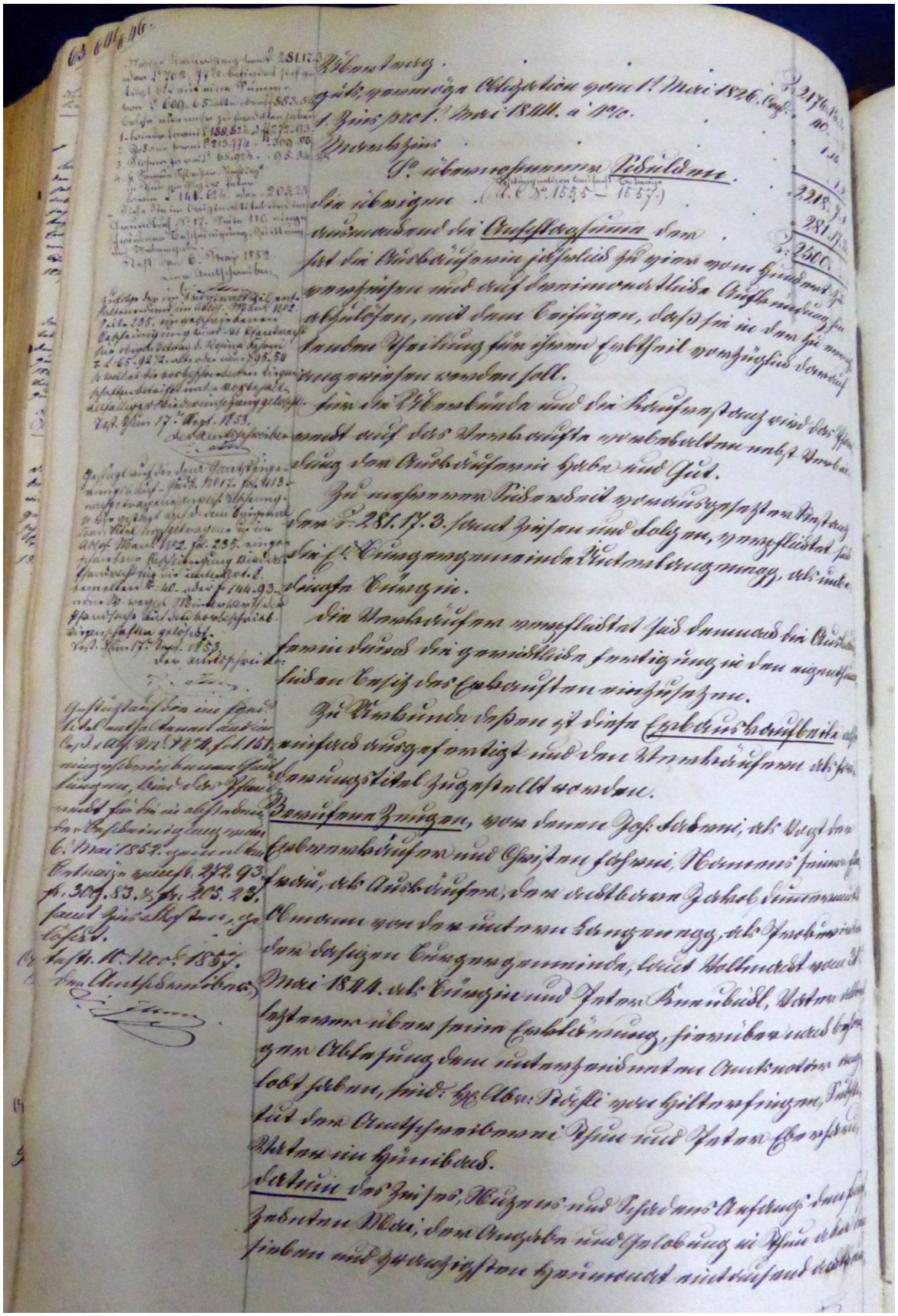


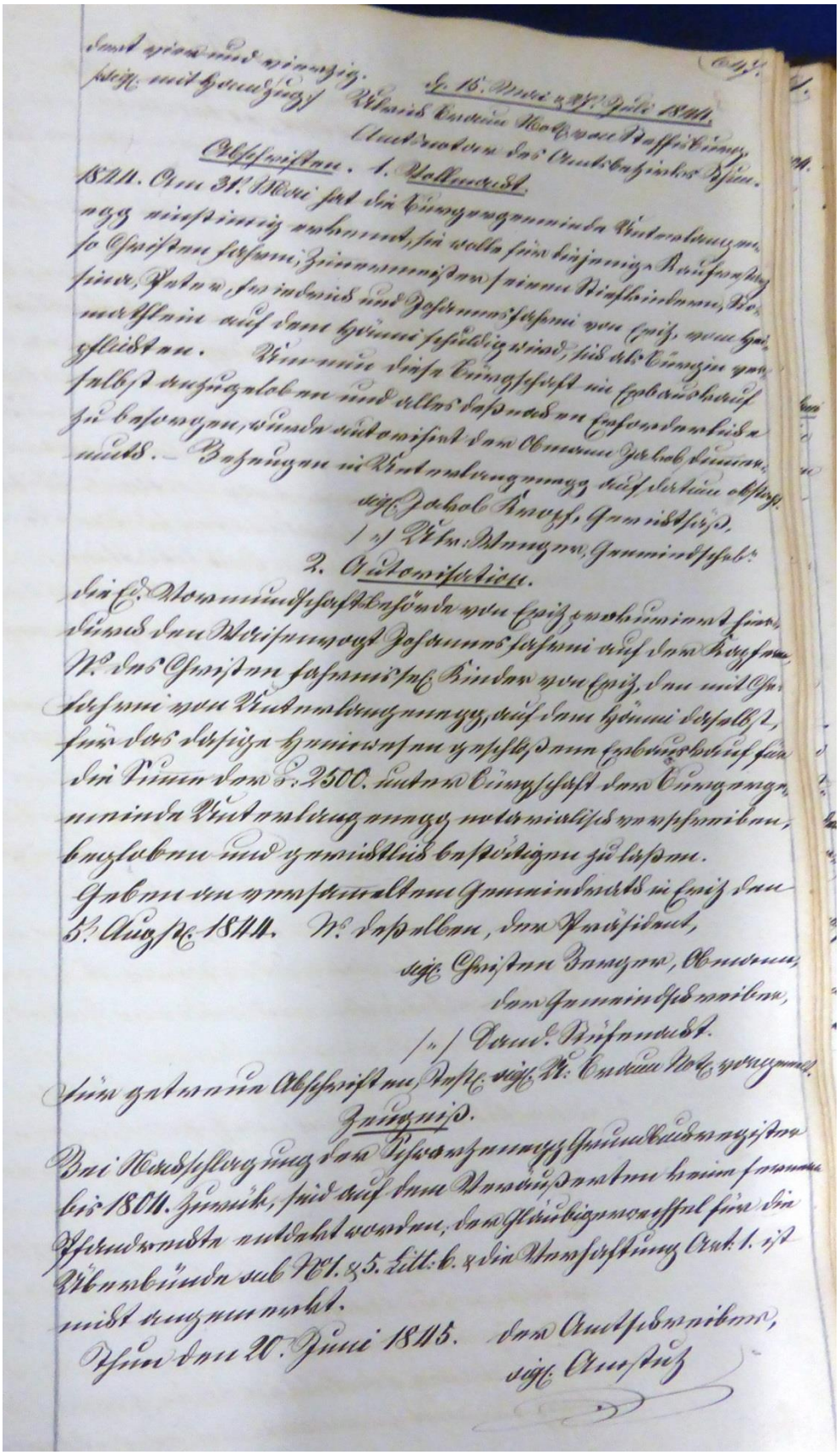












GRUNDBUCHAMT THUN B 172 640-647
ERBAUSKAUF VOM 6. FEBRUAR 1845

Erbauskaufbeile, ausgefertigt vom **6. September 1845**

… F. 648

Zu wissen sei, dass auf den erfolgten Hinschied des Christen Fahrni, gewesener Schreinermeister von Eriz, wohnhaft gewesen an der unteren Langenegg und die Wiederverehelichung seiner hinterlassenen Witwe, zwischen seinen nachgemeldeten Noterben folgender Erbauskauf geschlossen worden sei.

Es haben demnach:

1. Rosina Fahrni, Tochter des Erblassers aus zweiter Ehe zu 1/5-tel
2. Peter
3. Friedrich
4. Johannes Fahrni, Söhne des Erblassers aus dritter Ehe, alle unger Vogtshanden des Johann Fahrni, Waisenvogt, alle von Eriz, letzteren dann sowohl für sich selbst als auch als Erben ihrer verstorbenen Schwester
5. Magdalena Fahrni zu sechzehn fünfundzwansi Teilen

Rechtmässig verkauft

Der Magdalena Fahrni-Kneubühl, hinterlassene Witwe des Erblassers aus dritter Ehe, für welche handelt ihr nunmehriger Ehemann Christen Fahrni, Zimmermeister von Langenegg

nämlich

1. Einundzwanzig fünfundzwanzigteile an folgenden Liegenschaften in der Gemeinde Unterlangenegg, Gerichtsbezirk Schwarzenegg befindlich, wovon die Auskäuferin die übrigen vier fünfundzwanzigteile als Miterbin bereits besitzt, enthalten in Grenzen: Ein Haus und eine Scheune, brandversichert für 600 .. einen Sodbrunnen und an beiliegendem Matt- und Ackerland laut Kataster dreiundfünfachtel Jucharten um 3863 Schuh, das Hänni genannt. Es Grenzt morgens an Christen Kropfs Mattland, Mittags an die Landstrasse, abends an Isak Blatters Hausmatte und mitternachts an Ulrich und Niklaus Oeschs Mattland. Dazu gehört in Notfällen das Recht zu dem Brunnen des Isak Blatter bei dem Weg gegen verhältnismässige Unterhaltung desselben. Hingegen wird der Brunnen der Brüder Christen und Peter Kneubühl dadurch dem aun nach geleitet und entrechtet für sich darab jährlich der Gemeinde Steffisburg ein Halbes Mäss Brückhafer nebst 1 Batzen an Gald

2. Ein Stück Allmendland ob dem Haselboden laut Erdmassbuchs ¾ Jucharten und 2460 Schuh. Stosst morgens an die Brüder Althaus, mittags an Samuel Wyss, abends an der Witwe des Ulrich esch, gewesener Unterweibel und allsietige Allmendland und mitternachts an Isak Blatters Wald. Darüber führt ein Fahr und Fussweg.

	3. Ein Stücklein Wald auf dem Haselboden, ungefähr eine Jucharte, stösst: morgens an der Witwe des Ulrich Oeschs Land, mittags an Christen Müllers dito, abends an der Brüder Christen und Karl Burgdorfers Wald und mitternachts spitze sich dasselbe gegen die Rotache aus. Die Weide darin gehöre dem Christen Müller eigentümlich zu. Sei pflichtig, ein Stücklein Zaun gegen die Buchholterberg-Allmend zu machen und zu unterhalten. 4. Ein Stücklein Allmendland hinter Zäunen, ungefähr vier Jucharten und 1383 Schuh.. Es stösst, morgens an der Brüder Althausens Allmendland, mittags an die Strasse und abends an alt Gerichtsstatthalter Jakob Kropf und mitternachts an Hans Fahrnis beidseitiges Allmendland. Darüber führt ein Fussweg. 5. Ein Stück Torfmoos auf dem Traggmoos, laut Erdmassbuch 1 ½ Jucharten und 4296. Stösst: Morgens an Christen Zürchers Wald, mittags an Hans Fahrni und Herren Gebrüder Schwämli, abends wieder an der beiden letzteren Wald und mitternachts an Peter und Christen Schüpbachs Gesträuch 6. Ein Stücklein Wald in der Fuchsegg, laut Kataster 1 ¼ Jucharten und 100 Schuh. Stösst: Morgens an Peter Bieris Weide, mittags an Samuel Dummermuths Wald, abends an den Fahrni-Graben und mitternachts an Johann Blasers [ev. Blatters] Wald.

Pfandrechte zugunsten [stark zusammengefasst]	Kronen	Batzen	Kreuzer
1. Herr Zürcher in Langnau	322	12	2
2. Margaritha Sprüngli von Köniz	37	12	2
3. Joh. Sand in Bern	30		
4. Hans Breit im Trübenbach, Schwarzenegg, laut Teilung	322	12	2
5. Christen Eymann, alt Obmann und Hufschmid	60		
6. Jakob Eymann, alt Obmenn	55		
7. Frau Elisabeth von Sinner, geb. Sinner	600		
8. Ernst Wyss Professor	480		
9. Spendgut Schwarzenegg	190		
10. Kirchengut	120		
11. Maria Meyer, jetzt Johann Samuel Wildi in Bern	100		
12. Kinder des Hans Roth von Schwarzenegg	120		
13. Christen Schori von Ostermundigen	40		

2Ausser dem angezeigte Getreidezehnten, den allgemeinen Landes- und Gemeindebeschwerden und den Überbundenen unter Nr. 1 bis 5 hienach, sei das Verkaufte frei, wofür aber von den Verkäufern keine Gewähr und Vertretung zu leisten versprochen wird.

Erwerbungsart

Kraft Kaufsvergrags vom 1. März 5. August 1837, gefertigt den 11 letzteren Monats, Schwarzenegg Grundbuch 10, Seite 12, gelangten die vorbeschriebenen Liegenschaften von Peter Kneübühl an den Erblasser Christian Fahrni und auf den erfolgten Tod desselben zu 5/7 durch die Noterbfolge an die diesseitigen Kontrahenten, welche die übrigen 2/7 von Christian und Susanna Fahrni, Kinder des Erblassers aus erster Ehe, erworben haben, infolge Auskaufvertrags vom 25.10. 1841 mit Fertigung vom 4.11.1841

Zugaben

Die vorhandenen Zäune soll in diesem Auskauf begriffen sein

Vorbehalte

1. Bis 1.3.1845 wurde dem Jakob Krähenbühl eine Wohnung in vorigem Gebäude nebst etwas Land zum Anpflanzen um den Mietzins von vierzehn Kronen hinleihungsweise überlassen, welchen Akkord die Auskäuferin zu erfüllen übernimt.
2. Es erklärt der Auskäuferins Vater, Peter Kneubühl an der unteren Langenegg, dass er mit einem Betrag von 400 Kronen von seinem hienach unter Nr. 5 gemeldeten überbund von Kronen 686.17.—der nachstehenden Restanz von Kronen 281.17.3 auf alle Fälle nachgeben und jene 400 Kronen während seinem Leben unablösbar stehen lassen wolle, mit der Bedingung, dass die Auskäuferin oder ihre Erben in dem dereinst über seinen Nachlass zu errichtenden Theilung vorzüglich darauf angewiesen werden sollen.Gestützt auf die unter dem 26.4.1844 abgehaltenen öffentlichen Steigerung, von welcher vorige Gesamtliegenschaften nur 2400 Kronen gelten wollen, wurde der Kaufpreis für dieselben bestimmt auf 2500 Bernkronen oder 6250 Pfund Pfennige.

Auf Abrechnung dieser Summe übernimmt die Auskäuferin nach Inhalt der Titel zu verzeichnen und abzulösen. [Fortsetzung zusammengefasst]	Kronen
1. Dem Waisengut bleiben am Platz der Witwe	301
2. Obligation	312
3. Der Gemeinde Unterlangenegg zu Handen ihres Armengutes	51
4. Den Kindern des Christian Kropf selig von der unterlangenegg	251
Marchzins	1
5. Dem Peter Kneubühl, Vater	774
6. Dem gleichen Kneubühl	408
7. Der einen Verkäuferin, Rosina Fahrni von Eriz, laut eigenhändiger Teilung vom 1. April 1830	75
Total	**2500**

Dies hat die Auskäuferin jährich zu 4 % zu verzinsen und auf dreimonatliche Kündigung abzulösen, mit dem Beifügen, dass sie in der …. Teilung für ihren Erbteil vorzüglich darauf angewiesen werden soll.
Für die Überbünde und die Kaufrestanz wird das Pfandrecht auf das Verkaufte vorbehalten, nebst Verbindung der Auskäuferin Hab und Gut.

Zu mehrerer Sicherheit von ausgesetzer Restanz von Kronen 281.17.3 samt Zinsen und Fogen verpflichtet sich die Burgergemeinde Unterlangenegg als unbedingte Bürgin.

Die Verkäuferin verpflichtet sich demnach, die Auskäuferin durch die gerichtliche Ausfertigung in den eigentlichen Besitz des Verkauften einzusetzen.

Zu Urkunde dessen ist diese Erbauskaufbeile also einfach ausgefertigt und den Verkäufern als ihre Forderungstitel zugestellt worden.

Berufene Zeugen
Vor denen Johann Fahrni als Vogt der Erbverkäufer und Christian Fahrni namens einer Frau als Auskäufer, der achtbare Jakob Dummermuth, Obmann von der unteren Langenegg als Prokurierter der dasigen Burgergemeinde laut Vollmacht vom Mai 1844 als Bürgin und Peter Kneubühl, Vater … letzerer über seine Erklärung hierüber nach bester Abfertigung dem unterzeichneten Amtnotar gelobt haben sind, Abraham Stähli von Hilterfingen, Servitut der Amtsschreibere Thun und Peter Eberhard, Vater im Hünibach.

Datum des Nutzens und Schadens Anfangs den 1a5 Mai, der Angabe und Gelobung in Thun am 27.7.1844

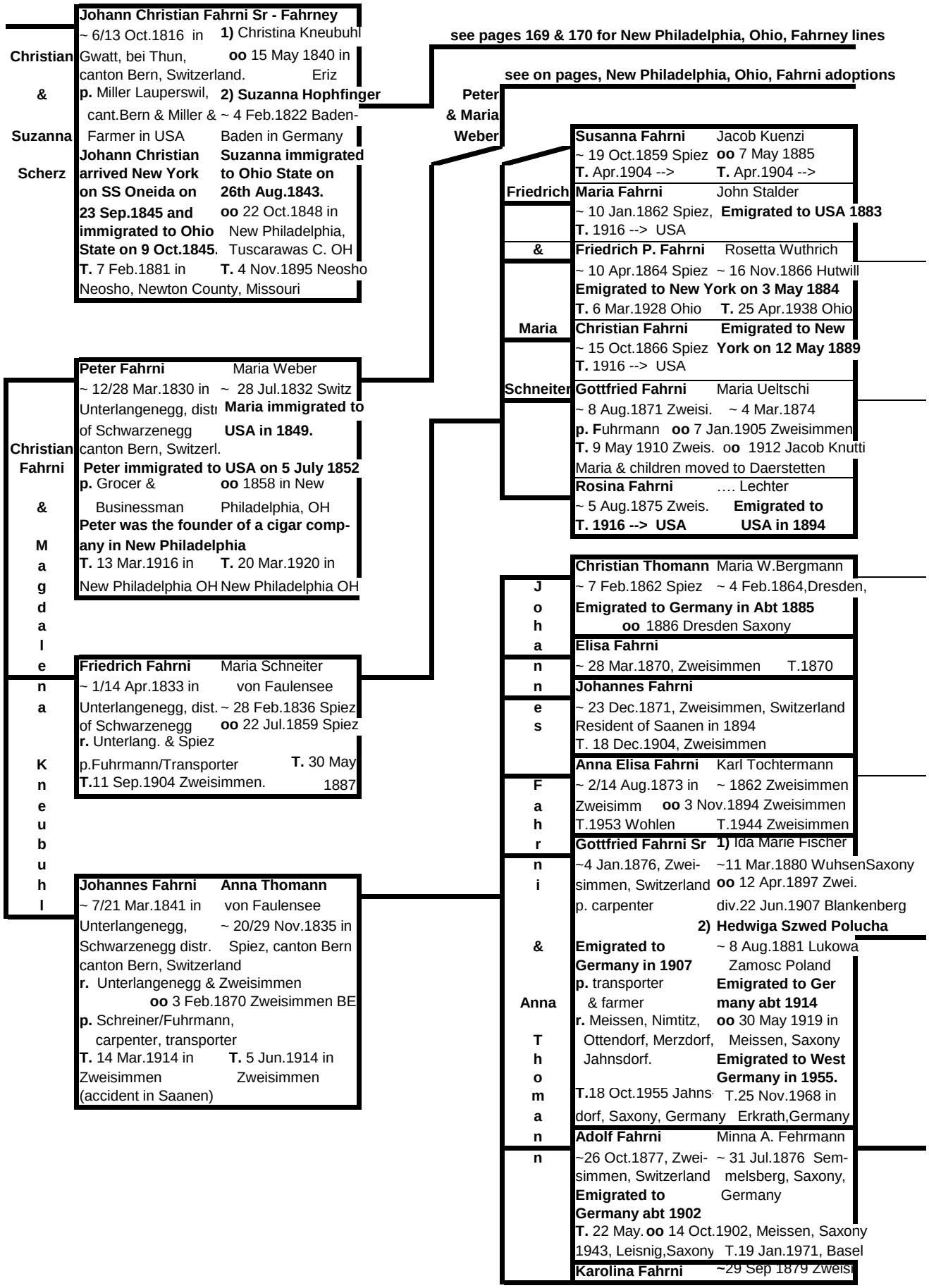
Vollmacht
1844 am 31 Mai hat die Burgergemeinde Unterlangenegg einstimmig erkannt, sie wolle für diejenige Kaufrestanz so Christian Fahrni, Zimmermeister, seinen Stiefkindern Rosina, Peter, Friedrich und Johannes Fahrni von Eritz vom Heimathlein auf dem Hänni schuldig wird, sich als Bürgin Verpflichten. Um nun diese Bürgschaft im Erbauskauf selbst anzugeloben und alles des noch an erforderlichem zu besorgen, wurde autorisiert der Obmann Jakob Dummermut.

Autorisation
Die Vormungschaftsbehörde von Eriz prokuriert hierdurch den waisenvogt Johannes Fahrni auf dem Kapf… des Christian Fahrnis selig Kinder von Eriz, den mit Christen Fahrni von Unterlangenegg auf dem Hänni daselbst für das dasige Heimwesen geschlossene Erbauskauf für die Summe von 2500 *ronen unter Bürgschaft der Burgergemeinde Unterlangenegg notarialisch verschreiben, beglaubigen und gerichtlich bestätigen zu lasssen.*
Gegeben den 5.8.1844, Christian Berger, Obmann, der Gemeindeschreiber.

Zeugnis

Bei Nachschlagung des Schwarzenegg Grundbuchregisters bis 1804 zurück sind auf dem Veräusserten keine fernere Pfandrechte entdeckt worden. Der Gläubigerwechse für die Überbünde um n1.5 usw. ist nicht angemerkt.

Thun den 20. Juni 1845, der Amtsschreiber, sig. Amstutz


Johann Christian Fahrni Sr - Fahrney
~ 6/13 Oct.1816 in Gwatt, bei Thun, canton Bern, Switzerland.
p. Miller Lauperswil, cant.Bern & Miller & Farmer in USA
Johann Christian arrived New York on SS Oneida on 23 Sep.1845 and immigrated to Ohio State on 9 Oct.1845.
T. 7 Feb.1881 in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri
1) Christina Kneubuhl oo 15 May 1840 in Eriz
2) Suzanna Hophfinger ~ 4 Feb.1822 Baden-Baden in Germany
Suzanna immigrated to Ohio State on 26th Aug.1843.
oo 22 Oct.1848 in New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas C. OH
T. 4 Nov.1895 Neosho
Christian & Suzanna Scherz
see pages 169 & 170 for New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrney lines
see on pages, New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrni adoptions
Peter & Maria Weber
Peter Fahrni Maria Weber
~ 12/28 Mar.1830 in Unterlangenegg, distr of Schwarzenegg canton Bern, Switzerl.
~ 28 Jul.1832 Switz
Maria immigrated to USA in 1849.
Peter immigrated to USA on 5 July 1852
p. Grocer & Businessman
oo 1858 in New Philadelphia, OH
Peter was the founder of a cigar company in New Philadelphia
T. 13 Mar.1916 in New Philadelphia OH
T. 20 Mar.1920 in New Philadelphia OH
Christian Fahrni & Magdalena Kneubuhl
Friedrich Fahrni Maria Schneiter
~ 1/14 Apr.1833 in Unterlangenegg, dist. of Schwarzenegg
r. Unterlang. & Spiez
p.Fuhrmann/Transporter
T.11 Sep.1904 Zweisimmen.
von Faulensee ~ 28 Feb.1836 Spiez
oo 22 Jul.1859 Spiez
T. 30 May 1887
Johannes Fahrni Anna Thomann
~ 7/21 Mar.1841 in Unterlangenegg, Schwarzenegg distr. canton Bern, Switzerland
r. Unterlangenegg & Zweisimmen
p. Schreiner/Fuhrmann, carpenter, transporter
T. 14 Mar.1914 in Zweisimmen (accident in Saanen)
von Faulensee ~ 20/29 Nov.1835 in Spiez, canton Bern
oo 3 Feb.1870 Zweisimmen BE
T. 5 Jun.1914 in Zweisimmen
Friedrich & Maria Schneiter
Susanna Fahrni Jacob Kuenzi
~ 19 Oct.1859 Spiez
T. Apr.1904 -->
oo 7 May 1885
T. Apr.1904 -->
Maria Fahrni John Stalder
~ 10 Jan.1862 Spiez,
T. 1916 --> USA
Emigrated to USA 1883
Friedrich P. Fahrni Rosetta Wuthrich
~ 10 Apr.1864 Spiez ~ 16 Nov.1866 Hutwill
Emigrated to New York on 3 May 1884
T. 6 Mar.1928 Ohio T. 25 Apr.1938 Ohio
Christian Fahrni
~ 15 Oct.1866 Spiez
T. 1916 --> USA
Emigrated to New York on 12 May 1889
Gottfried Fahrni Maria Ueltschi
~ 8 Aug.1871 Zweisi. ~ 4 Mar.1874
p. Fuhrmann oo 7 Jan.1905 Zweisimmen
T. 9 May 1910 Zweis. oo 1912 Jacob Knutti
Maria & children moved to Daerstetten
Rosina Fahrni …. Lechter
~ 5 Aug.1875 Zweis.
T. 1916 --> USA
Emigrated to USA in 1894
Johann Christian Thomann Maria W.Bergmann
~ 7 Feb.1862 Spiez ~ 4 Feb.1864,Dresden,
Emigrated to Germany in Abt 1885
oo 1886 Dresden Saxony
Elisa Fahrni
~ 28 Mar.1870, Zweisimmen T.1870
Johannes Fahrni
~ 23 Dec.1871, Zweisimmen, Switzerland
Resident of Saanen in 1894
T. 18 Dec.1904, Zweisimmen
Anna Elisa Fahrni Karl Tochtermann
~ 2/14 Aug.1873 in Zweisimm ~ 1862 Zweisimmen
T.1953 Wohlen oo 3 Nov.1894 Zweisimmen T.1944 Zweisimmen
Gottfried Fahrni Sr 1) Ida Marie Fischer
~4 Jan.1876, Zweisimmen, Switzerland ~11 Mar.1880 WuhsenSaxony
p. carpenter oo 12 Apr.1897 Zwei. div.22 Jun.1907 Blankenberg
2) Hedwiga Szwed Polucha
Emigrated to Germany in 1907 ~ 8 Aug.1881 Lukowa Zamosc Poland
p. transporter & farmer
r. Meissen, Nimtitz, Ottendorf, Merzdorf, Jahnsdorf.
Emigrated to Germany abt 1914
oo 30 May 1919 in Meissen, Saxony
Emigrated to West Germany in 1955.
T.18 Oct.1955 Jahnsdorf, Saxony, Germany
T.25 Nov.1968 in Erkrath,Germany
Adolf Fahrni Minna A. Fehrmann
~26 Oct.1877, Zweisimmen, Switzerland ~ 31 Jul.1876 Semmelsberg, Saxony, Germany
Emigrated to Germany abt 1902
T. 22 May. 1943, Leisnig,Saxony
oo 14 Oct.1902, Meissen, Saxony
T.19 Jan.1971, Basel
Karolina Fahrni ~29 Sep 1879 Zweisi
John & Anna Thomann
Friedrich & Anna Fahrni

GENERATION 10 US LINES

New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrney Lines

John Christian & Sarah Jones

John Christ. Fahrney Jr Sarah E. Jones
~ 19 Aug.1849, New- ~ 11 Feb.1849 MO
Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio
p. farmer **oo** 7 Sep.1871n Ohio
T. 10 Jul.1921, Oklah T. 26 Jan.1929

Elisabeth Fahrney Charlee Joker
~ 25 Jan.1851 New Philadelphia, Ohio
Gottfried Fahrney ~ 7 May 1852 T. 1854 OH

Lena Fahrney George Fike
~ 3 Mar.1854 Lockport, Williams C. Ohio

Susanne Kat. Fahrney Alfred Hubbard
~ 14 Jan.1856 Lockport, Williams C. Ohio

Susanna Christ.Fahrney Landon C.Ball
~ 1 Dec.1857 Neosho, ~ 12 Nov.1860
Benton Tws, Newton County, Missouri
T. 10 Apr.1928 **oo** 1883 T 27 Dec.1937

Susanna Hoppe & Fahrni

Franklin Christ.Fahrney Lillian Pugh
~ 1 Aug.1860 Baxter ~ 23 Sep.1872
Springs, Cherokee County, Kansas
p. carpenter/farmer **oo** 2 Sep.1896
T.11 Jun.1938, CA **T**.16 Feb.1960 Sacramento

Emile Fred.Fahrney Georgia P. Hogue
~ 14 Mar.1862 Baxte ~ 16.Nov.1875 Texas
Springs, Cherokee County, Kansas
p. farmer & mill owne **oo** 9 Oct.1892 Oklah
T. 16 May.1946 Los Angeles T. 1943

Emilena L.Fahrney Albert Murphy
~ 14 Mar.1862 Baxter Springs, Cherokee
T. 4 Jul.1957 MO County, Kansas

New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrni adoptions

Peter & Maria Fahrni-Schneiter

(four adopted children in USA)

Alice Maria Fahrni Albert Reiser
~ 10 Dec.1857 Switz ~ 5 Dec.1862
T. 1933 USA T. 1939

Lena Keiser Fahrni
~ 1864 Ohio T. < -- 1910

Clara Scher. Fahrni John Holzwarth
~ 1868 Ohio T.1944 ~ 1868 T.1932

Emma Low.Fahrni Albert Torgler
~ 1880 T.1942 ~ 1881 T.1962

Jessie Fahrni ~ 1878 Ohio T. 1881

Friedrich Fahrni -Schneiter US Line

Friedrich & Maria Schneiter

Maria Fahrni John Stalder
~ 10 Jan.1862 Spiez, **Emigrated to USA**
T. 1916 --> USA **in 1883**

Friedrich P. Fahrni Rosetta Wuthrich
~ 10 Apr.1864, Spiez ~ 16 Nov.1866 Hutwill
Emigrated to New York, 3 May 1884
T.6 Mar.1928, Ohio T. 25 Apr.1938 Ohio

Christian Fahrni **Emigrated to USA**
~ 15 Oct.1866 Spiez **on 12 May.1889**

Gottfried Fahrni Maria Ueltschi
~ 8 Aug.1871 Zweisimmen
T. 9 May 1910 Zweisi9mmen

Rosina Fahrni …. Lechter
~ 5 Aug.1875 Zweisimmen **Emigrated**
T. 1916 --> USA **to USA in 1894**

GENERATION 11 US LINES

New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrney Lines

John Christian & Sarah Jones

Grace O Fahrney Caleb M Kinne
~ 27 Jul.1877 ~ 1877
T. 29 Apr.1955 T. 1955

Robert J Fahrney Susie C Sharrock
~ 7 Jan.1883 ~ 1893
T.11 Feb.1965 T.1982

David E Fahrney Alta …….
~ 30 Apr.1886 Oklahoma T.Jan.1965

Ernest E Fahrney Eileen E. Higgin
~ 7 Jan.1890 ~ 1900 T.1982
T…Nov.1972 oo 1920

Susanna & L.Ball

Ibbie H. Ball James E. Clark

Paul Lanier Fahrney Lois Morris
~ 18 Jun.1897 Oklah ~13 Sep.1901 California
Standard Oil CEO **oo** 29 Jun.1926 Cal.
T. 8 Mar.1993 Monterey Cal.T.11 Mar.1994

Delmer Slat.Fahrney **1)**Agnes Whiting Kelly
~ 23 Oct.1898 Oklah ~ 12 Feb.1905 Kansas
Navy RearAdmiral **oo** 2 Jun.1925 Hawaii
T. 12 Sep.1984 in T. 17 Nov.1969
San Diego **2)** Helen Patricia
California Sheehan-Arthur
~3.3.1900, **oo** 1970

Lorena Fahrney Edward Thompson
~ 13 Jul.1901 Missou Rear Admiral
T.1 May.1980 T. 24 Jan.1986

Horace Fahrney Ramona Twisselman
~ 30 Jul.1902 Oklaho ~ 28 Nov.1907 Calif.
T. 30 Dec.1989 Calif. T. 29 Aug.1994 Calif.

Maurice Clayt.Fahrney LaRue Marquis
~ 30 Jul.1902 Oklahoma

Ruth E. Fahrney Robert Wilson
~ 7 Oct.1903 Oklaho oo 1 Jul.1944

Pauline E.Fahrney Harold C. Manley
~ 7 May.1905 Oklaho ~ 2 Apr.1901 Nebraska

Pugh

Majel Fahrney Robert Martin
~ 1 Jul.1909 Oklahon oo 1931
T. 26 Jul.1988 Calif. T. 1967

Fred Victor Fahrney Ethel Buxton
~ 16 Jul.1893 Oklaho ~ 1897 Arkansas
T. 1938 p. welder oo 1912

Frank Guy Fahrney 1) 1920 Alyce Kleinfelter
~ 4 Jan.1897 Oklaho 2) 1929 Irene Jenkins
T. 18 Apr.1967 California

Oren W. Fahrney Alice Beryl Comstock
~ 13 Nov.1899 Neosh ~ 3 Jul.1901 S.Dakota
Missouri **oo** 2 Aug.1919
T. 14 May.1991 Calif. T. 29 Jun.1986 Calif

Thurman Holms Fahrney Bessie Walker
~ 2 Jul.1902 Neosho ~ 12 Sep.1898
T. 16 Mar.1959 oo1931 T. 7 Aug.1975

Robert Melvin Fahrney 1) Jewel A.Rowe
~ 18 Dec.1907 Oklah ~ 1 Apr.1908 Oklaho
T. Jul. 1984 California 2) Mary L.Mathias

Emil Harold Fahrney Kathrine Ellis
~ 23 Dec.1910 Neosho, Missouri
T. 7 Oct.1969 Cal. **oo** 31 Dec.1930

Friedrich P. Fahrni US Line

Friedrich & Rosetta Wuthrich

Peter F. Fahrni ~ .. Jan.1899 Ohio USA

Ida R. Fahrni ~ 1901 Ohio USA

Frederick C. Fahrni ~ .. 1903 Ohio USA

Gottfried & M.Ueltsch

Fritz Fahrni **Emigrated to USA**
~ 9 Oct.1906 Zweisimmen

GENERATION 12 US LINES

New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrney Lines

Jewel E Kinne ~ 1904 **T.** 1928
Grace & Caleb Kinne — Boone H Kinne ~ 1905 **T.**1966
Edra E Kinne ~ 1907 **T.**1987
Lorrain T Kinne ~ 1911 T.1974 — Benjamin Brixey ~ 1908 **T.**1958
Coleman M Kinne ~ 1916 **T.** 1996

Robert & S.Sharrock — **Robert O Fahrney ~** 1912 -T.1979

Ernest & Eileen — **Kenneth A. Fahrney**
~ 23 Jun.1920 Oklahoma
T. 10 Jul.1996 Atoka Oklahoma

Ibbie Ba & J.Clark — **Benjamin F. Clar** Lea F. Buckley
~ 23 Mar.1927 **T.**1997 ~ 1927 T.2012

Delmar Slater & Agnes Kelly — **Dawn Fahrney** Sanford Knotts
~ 3 Aug.1926 San Diego **oo** 26 Aug.1950
T. 27 Jul.2006 Washington
Delmer S. Fahrney Jr Ruth L. Reiman
~ 20 Sep.1927 Honolulu **oo** 23 Feb.1952
T. 26 Feb.1979 California
Carol Fahrney ~ 21 May.1929 Annapolis
Paula Fahrney Andre Yon
~ 3 Feb.1932 T.< T. 10 May 1973

Maurice & LaRue Marquis — **Maurice Fahrney** Rose Hopkins
~ 1930 oo 1969
Mikkell Fahrney James A. Fish
~ 27 Sep.1935 Washingto **oo** 1955

Fred Victor & Ethel Buxton — **Fred LeRoy Fahrney** Maryon Yarter
~ 24 Jun.1913 Mi ~ 6. Dec.1915
T. 5 Aug.1996 California **oo** 6 Jun.1937
Ven Otis Fahrne Edna Segelhorst
~ 14 Jun.1914 Ar ~ 19 Mar.1914
T. June 1979 p. Attorney divorced
Marvin B. Fahrney Josephine Cross
~ 29 May.1916 Id ~ 7 Mar.1915 Iowa
T. 12 Oct.1983 L. p. military

Frank & A. Klein-felter — **Emeile (Jack) Fahrney** Elizabeth L. Ayer
~ 13 Jul.1923 Ida ~ 3 Oct.1924 Cal.
T. 23 Aug.2003 S. Ramon **oo** 24 Oct.1945

Oran & Alice Comstock — **Richard Lee Fahrney** Dorothy Young
~ 5 Aug.1922 L.A 9 Sep.1925
AF Colonel **oo** 31 Jul.1943 T.9.16
Donald Alvin Fahrney Lois Wattenberger
~ 6 Jul.1928 L.A. ~ 8 Sep.1926
Founder of Fahrney Automotive Group
oo 2 Sep.1949

Thurman & B.Wall — **Dale Thur. Fahrney**
~ 11 Mar.1932 C p.interior designer
Robert & J.Rowe — **Dwayne R. Fahrney** Barbara F. Watkins
~ 15 Aug.1933 C
T. 5.Jul. 1957 **oo** 1955
Robert & Mary Mathias — **Roberta M. Fahrney**
~ 23 Feb.1957
Michael L. Fahrney
~ 12 Aug.1964
Emil & Kathrine Ellis — **Joan P. Fahrney** Nolen D. Boyer
~ 19 Dec.1932 ~ 15 Aug.1930
Donald L. Fahrn Marilyn Snell

GENERATION 13 US LINES

New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrney Lines

Betty J. Brixey Henry Anderson
~ 1931 T.1974

B. Clark & L.Buckley — Frank Clark
~ 2 Mar.1949
Sandra L. Knotts David Jackman
~ 9 Mar.1955
Dawn & S. Knotts — Stephan E. Knott ~ 10 Sep.1957
Richard W. Knott ~ 3 Oct.1958

Delmer & R. Reim — **Carol R. Fahrney**
~ 25 Oct.1953 Cal.
Robert M. Fahrney
~ 16 Apr.1959 C T. 1975

Paula & Andre Yon — Colette B. Yon ~ 15 Nov.1957
Andre Phil. Yon ~ 22 Apr.1962
Michelle B. Yon ~ 29 Mar.1969

Mikkel & James Fish — Deborah Fish Jeffrey Sweeney
~ 30 Oct.1957
Sharon Fish ~ 2 Jan.1959
Sally Fish ~ 18 Sep.1960
Angela Fish ~ 24 Aug.1976

Fred & Maryon Yarter — **Frederick M. Fah** Karen Beneux
~ 2 Feb.1947 Cal Elis. Ellsworth
Stephen P. Fahr A. Groeneveld
~ 13 Oct.1949 Cal.

Ven Otis & Edna Segel-horst — **John Fred. Fahrney**
~ 26 Aug.1944 Cal.
Renata L. Fahrn James Knopp
~ 26 Jan.1945 Germany (adopted)

Marvin & Jose-phine Cross — Mary L. Fahrney
~ 10 Jul.1941 Cal.
David A. Fahrney
~ 11 May.1943 Cal.
Joe Victor Fahrn Carol Walker
~ 29 Oct.1946 Cal.

Emil Jack & Eliza-beth Ayer — **Linda Eliz.Fahrney** Don.D. Moerdijk
~ 23 Aug.1948 C ~ 25 Mar.1947 Ca
oo 10 Jul.1971 Ca
Douglas B. Fahrney Gloria J. Turner
~ 19 Sep.1952 C ~ 13 Apr.1952 Miss.
oo 4 Nov.1974

Richard & Dorothy Young — **Susan Fahrney** James E. Brogen
~ 25 Feb.1949 C oo 1969
Richard Lee Fahrney Sharon Cook
~ 23 Feb.1952 C oo 1983

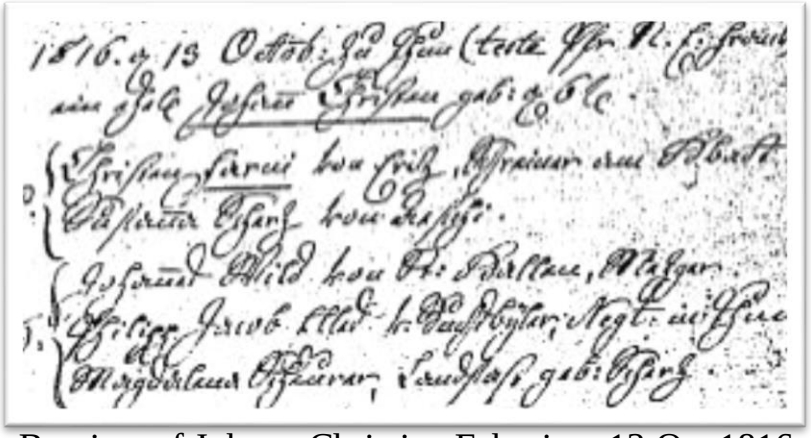
Donald & Lois Watten-berger — **Gerald R. Fahrn** Patricia Pistacchio
~ 28 Aug.1950 C ~ 17 May 1950
oo 22 Nov.1975 Fresno, Cal.
Donald W. Fahrney 1) Linda Davis
~ 12 Dec.1952 C 2) Rachelle Wong

Dwayne & B. Watkin — **Ronald D. Fahrney**
~ 1 Feb.1956

Joan & Nolen Boyer — Julian M. Boyer ~ 28 Mar.1952
Nolen D. Boyer Maureen Mitchell
~ 27 Nov.1953 ~ 1954 oo 1981
James D. Boyer ~ 5 Jul.1955 T 1999
Janice D. Boyer ~5 Jul.1955 ooGerald Key

Generation 9A, Johann Christian Fahrni's early life

Johann Christian Fahrni (JCF) was the first and only son of the Christian & Suzanna Scherz family. He was born on 6 October in Gwatt, on Lake Thun, and baptized on the 13th October 1816 in Thun (K07Schw19) (K2Thun49).



Baptism of Johann Christian Fahrni on 13 Oct.1816

His two Godfathers were Johannes Wild and Philip Jacob; the Godmother was his aunt, Magdalena Scherz - Scheurer. Johann Christian was a six-year-old toddler when his mother Suzanna died, in August, 1822. As his father remarried only four months after the death of his first wife, Johann Christian and his two-year old sister had, if anything, at least someone with the vastly important task to care for them. As was shown in generation 8, Johann Christian was the eldest of his father's nine children born to his three wives during the 25 years' time span. Losing his mother when he was 6, and then his stepmother when he was 13, resulted in nothing like a stable and uneventful childhood for Johann Christian.

Unfortunately, the vital statistics do not offer much of an insight into Johann Christian's early years. Considering that he did not learn his father's trade of carpentry like so many of his ancestors before him, it can be assumed that he left the family unit as a very young boy and was probably brought up by a close family member. It may be no coincidence that his father's brother-in-law, Johannes Stahli, was a miller, like Johann Christian would become later on. This could support the idea that Johann Christian was living with his aunt Elizabeth Fahrni-Stahli for some time. This assumption would make sense as the total assets of Peter Fahrni-Wenger (generation 7) went to Christian and to his sister Elizabeth Fahrni Stahli. Furthermore, Johannes Stahli and Christian Fahrni also owned land together (Grundbuch ThunB409), confirming that the two had a close family relationship.

The first legal document we have on Johann Christian is his marriage to Christina Kneubuhl, on 15 May 1840 (BR1Eriz377). He was 24 years old. No descendants were found on this couple; as there are no further traces on Christina, my guess would be that she died, probably at childbirth.

Another document shown in generation 8, dated 4 Nov.1841, describes the estate inheritance settlement following the death of Johann Christian's father. The final distribution of assets among all the siblings as described in document dated 6 February 1845, following the death of his stepmother, nominates Johann Christian as the guardian of his three half-brothers who were all still minor. Our Johann Christian was then 29 years old and a miller by profession in nearby Lauperswil, (Grundbuch B171Thun3850ff).

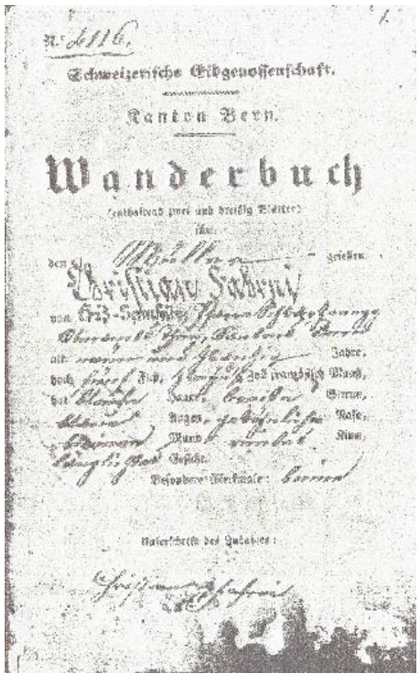
The story below, unfolding as of January 1845, about Johann Christian is rather complex; nonetheless, his actions are efficiently planned to say the least.

- 7 Jan.1845 : death of stepmother Magdalena Fahrni-Kneubuhl
- 6 Feb.1845 : final distribution of assets among all siblings
- 31 Jul.1845 : obtention of Swiss Wanderbuch (passport)
- 31 Jul.1845 : visa to enter France by French Embassy in Bern
-17 Aug.1845: embarking at Le Havre port, France, for New York
- 9 Oct. 1845: immigrated to USA, State of Ohio, Tuscawaras County.

But before describing Johann Christian Fahrni (JCF)'s emigration story to the USA and his becoming the patriarch of the prolific and successful lineages of Fahrney descendants, circumstances demand that we address first the fate of his three half-brother orphans, Peter (15), Friedrich (12) and Johannes (4). Being their legal guardian, there is no doubt that Johann Christian had made sure that his half-brothers would be taken care of after his departure. The inheritance of properties and wealth was sealed on paper as per above legal documents. Most importantly, JCF must have arranged for the nomination of a new - or a second - legal guardian to administer the boys' wellbeing until their majority. We do not know who was nominated; nevertheless, the options were limited considering the few family members that remained back in Switzerland,

There was aunt Elizabeth Fahrni and her husband Hans Stahli who could have helped the three orphan boys, but this couple was by then over 55 years old. Just looking at the Fahrni side of the family, there were only two possibilities of siblings who might have taken care of the three boys; there was Johann Christian's sister Suzanne, who married in 1840, but she could only have helped out for six years, as she later also emigrated to the USA. Indeed, in 1851, Suzanne Kneubuhl-Fahrni left Switzerland to join her brother JCF in New Philadelphia; and one year later, Peter Fahrni also emigrated to the USA. After 1852, it seems that only Johannes, the youngest of the orphans, would still have need assistance for some time, as he was by then only 11 years old. Perhaps JCF's half-sister, Rosina Fahrni-Klauenbosh, could have taken care of Johannes, but this is an assumption.

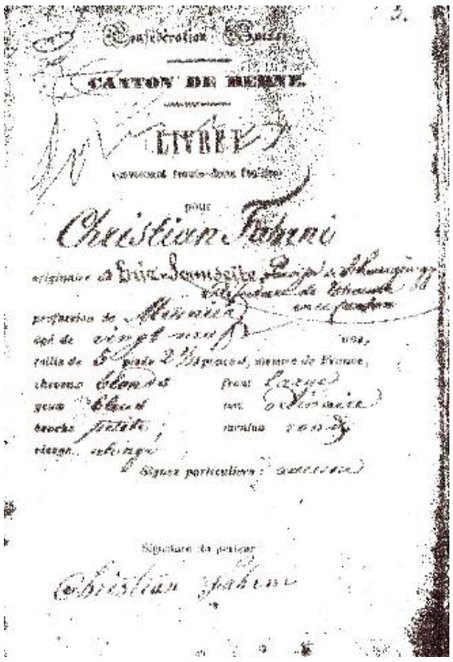
Besides, on the late mother's side, baptismal records show that a Kneubuhl sibling was always present as godfather or godmother of Magdalena's children. And there were the Stegmann family members, one of whom was also godmother/godfather at each Fahrni baptism. One of them could also have contributed with the bringing up of Johannes. But this is sheer speculation and the question must stay open. By all accounts, it is certain that Johan Christian remained in close contact with his family and three half-brothers throughout his life, as will be seen later.


Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft.

Canton Bern.

Wanderbuch

Johann Christian Fahrni Swiss Wanderbuch dated 31 July 1845

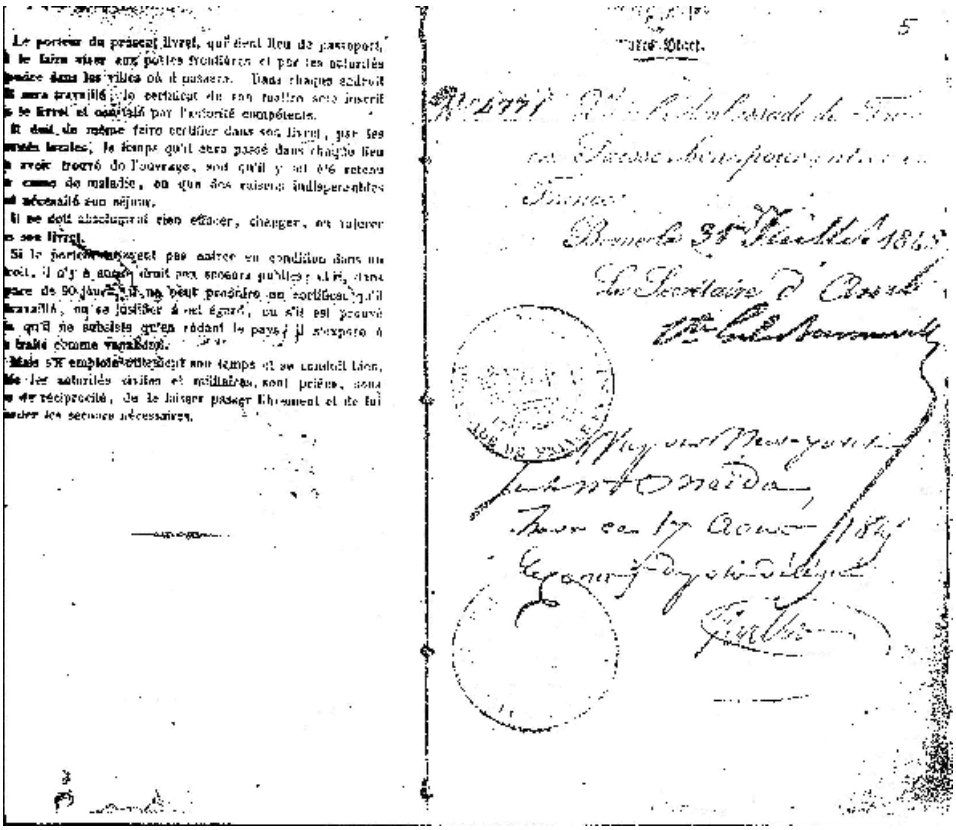

CANTON DE BERNE.

LIVRET

pour

Christian Fahrni

Johann Christian Fahrni Swiss passport dated 31 July 1845



Johann Christian Fahrni visa to enter France, dated 31 July 1845

Our Johann Christian Fahrni (JCF) did not leave Switzerland and immigrate to America in order to escape religious persecution, like his ancestors were forced to one and a half centuries earlier. It was not because of lack of economic opportunity at home either, as JCF was a mill owner in Lauperswil, and must have lived comfortably from his business and inherited assets. Did he emigrate following the loss of his first wife? We will never know. Perhaps it was the years of occupation and looting by the French revolutionary army which were still vivid in the Swiss people's mind. Besides, by then recent foreign news started to become available through local newspapers, describing that most of Europe was, to some degree, in a state of profound turbulence. France was recovering from its second revolution; Belgium had just emerged from its war of independence; and Germany was shaken by revolutionary disturbances. In fact, there were uprisings and rebellions everywhere on the continent. And the 1840s potato disease that resulted in famine throughout Europe must have given a depressing outlook to the young JCF, who was full of ambitions.

Last but not least, in those days there was increasing interest in the new continent and the American dream, where it was possible to succeed and become rich. JCF must have heard about America, a colony of the British Empire that went to war to gain its independence and self-rule. Johann Christian's decision to leave his country forever and sail to a faraway place, where it is assumed he knew nobody, was certainly not an easy one. Like many others at that time, JCF must have felt a very powerful desire to go elsewhere, and start a new life in the new country of the future, counting on his hard work and good fortune to thrive.

The details of JCF's journey to America, provided by the paper trail and the vital statistics, are obviously not sufficient to faithfully reconstruct the events of his voyage to America. It is therefore a matter of conjecture to visualize his journey from canton Bern to the American State of Ohio. We must assume that Johann Christian began his travel just after he obtained his visa to enter France, on 31 July 1845. The distance by road between Thun and the Le Havre Port was then about one thousand km which he had to travel by stagecoach, a cumbersome four or six horses drawn carriage. Depending on the conditions of the roads across France, and the irregular timetable, the daily distance covered by a stagecoach must have been about 60 km, giving JCF just enough days to embark at Le Havre on 17 August 1845.

Sailing ships would take approximately 40 days from Europe across the Atlantic Ocean to New York, and the recently introduced steamships would take only 15 days. SS Oneida, on which JCF embarked , was a sailing vessel transporting cargo with a section for passengers. It departed Le Havre on 17th August and arrived in New York on 23 September 1845. (See SS Oneida details on next page). We can only guess how unpleasant this journey must have been, with the well-known overcrowding, the reputedly poor food, the disease and seasickness on board. Castle Garden was the first organized receiving station that provided a safe environment for immigrants, but was not operational until ten years later, in 1855. Our Johann Christian's vessel, therefore, docked at a New York pier. After the official process of health check, identity, destination and money change were completed, he was most likely welcomed outside by a bunch of bad guys and opportunists waiting to take advantage of the arriving immigrants.

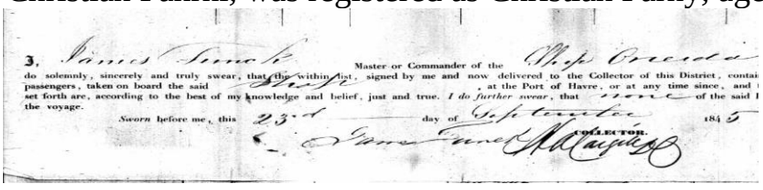
New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 about Christian Farny

Name:	**Christian Farny**
Arrival Date:	23 Sep 1845
Birth Date:	abt 1816
Age:	29
Gender:	Male
Port of Departure:	Le Havre, France
Port of Arrival:	New York, New York
Ship Name:	Oneida
Search Ship Database:	Search the Oneida in the 'Passenger Ships and Images' database



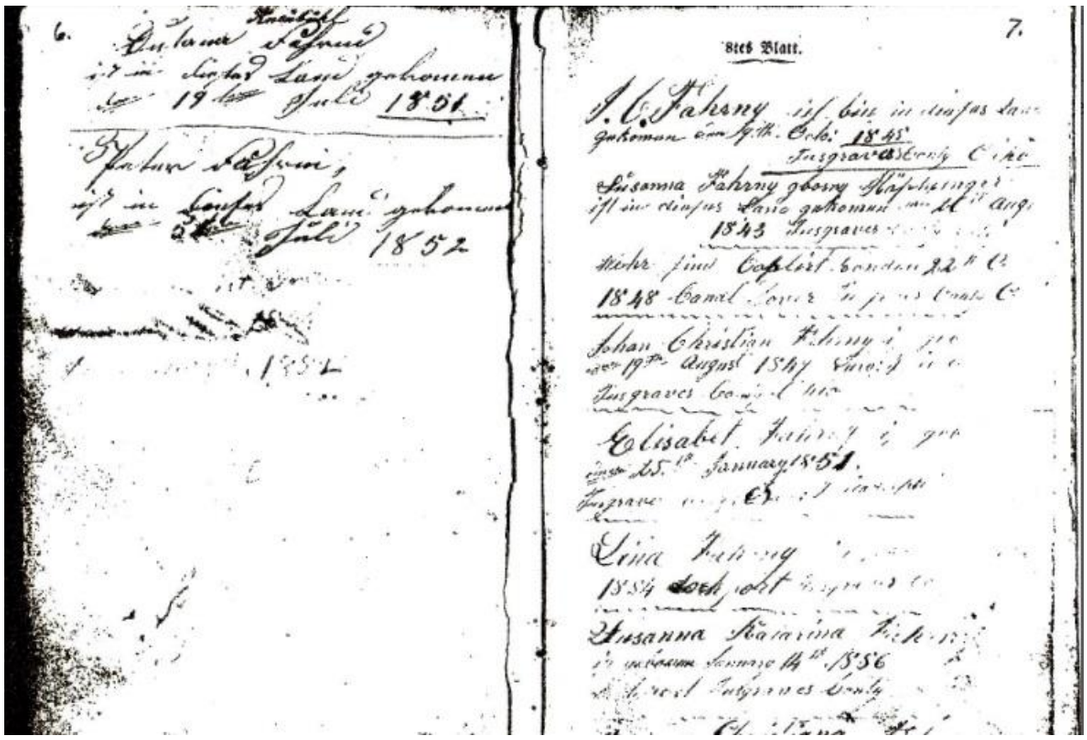
View Passenger List

SS Oneida, sailing from Le Havre, France, on 17th August 1845 to New York
Johann Christian Fahrni, was registered as Christian Farny, aged 29



3. James Smith Master or Commander of the Ship Oneida
do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear, that the within list, signed by me and now delivered to the Collector of this District, contai
passengers, taken on board the said Ship, at the Port of Havre, or at any time since, and
set forth are, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, just and true. *I do further swear*, that of the said
the voyage.
Sworn before me, this 23rd day of September 1845
COLLECTOR.

Johann Christian Fahrni's Wanderbuch, Swiss travel document.



6. Barbara Fahrni ist in Lester Land gekommen den 19ten July 1851
Barbara Fahrni ist in Lester Land gekommen den 5ten July 1852

8tes Blatt. 7.

J. C. Fahrny ist hier in diesen Land gekommen den 5th Oct. 1845
Susgraves County Ohio
Susanna Fahrny geborne Klopfenstein ist in diesen Land gekommen den 22 Aug 1843 Susgraves
Mehr sind Copirt bis auf 22 Oct 1848 Canal Lower
Johan Christian Fahrny ist geb den 19th August 1847 Susgraves County Ohio
Elisabet Fahrny ist geb den 25th January 1851. Susgraves
Lina Fahrny 1854 Loch
Susanna Katarina Fahrny ist in diesem Lande 14th 1856 Susgraves County

Pages 6 to 11 of this travel document were written by the same handwriting, evidently by Johann Christian himself. The handwriting indicates a good level of education. The early pages are in German and later in English. Page 6 shows the immigration of his only sister Suzanne Fahrni-Kneubuhl, on 19 July 1851, and of his half-brother Peter, on 5 July 1852.

Now that we have accompanied JCF across the ocean to America, the genealogical research based on data available in Switzerland comes to an end. Here I must point out that some official US documents of Johann Christian indicate the incorrect date of his baptism as 18 October 1816. The baptismal entry in the church book of Thun state that Johann Christian was baptized on the 13th - and not the 18th, of October. The confusion is due to a misreading of the handwritten 13th into the 18th. However, Y-DNA comparisons with two separate descending Fahrney lineages of Johann Christian confirm a blood relation to my Swiss Fahrni line. Our bloodline was traced back to the 1500's and the DNA analysis indicates a 95% probability of our family lines sharing a common ancestor. We are, therefore, considered as tightly related.

In America, the genealogical research on Johann Christian Fahrni, the progenitor of the New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrney lineage, was started by two famous second-generation US Fahrney brothers, Paul Lanier and Delmer Slater. Both had a deep sense of their Swiss origins, as shown in their correspondence, and a great respect for their immigrant grandfather and grandmother. Paul Lanier Fahrney, 1897-1993, retired as Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors of Standard Oil, the world's largest oil company at that time. His brother Delmer Slater Fahrney, 1898-1984, became the Chief of the US Navy's guided missile program just before WWII and was subsequently nominated to Rear Admiral of the Navy. During his 1944 special and unofficial military mission to Switzerland, Delmer Fahrney was in contact with Colonel Hans Leutwyler, the head of the counterespionage section of the Swiss army. Learning that Delmer had Swiss ancestors, Colonel Leutwyler offered to guide him and help on researching the ancestors of his Fahrni grandfather.

Back in America, Delmer communicated his genealogical findings in Bern, Switzerland, to his brother Paul; they decided to work on a detailed family tree. They both contacted their respective Fahrney lines, in order to collect names and dates of the relatives back to the immigrant J.C. Fahrney. Sometime later, Delmer obtained a copy of JCF's "Wanderbuch" (passport), discovered in an old trunk at the home of Emile, the last son of JCF. This travel document was issued to his grandfather 99 years earlier by the Swiss authorities, just before his departure to the USA. Delmer gave this eleven-page passport to his brother Paul, who had it translated into English, after which it was forwarded to his mother Lillian Pug, his three brothers and four sisters. Paul Lanier Fahrney's cover letter, dated 26 April 1944, including the travel document of his grandfather, is shown below.

San Francisco
April 26, 1944

TO -

Mother, Delmer, Lorena, Maurice, Horace, Ruth, Pauline, Majel:

Am attaching photostatic copies of Grandfather Christian Fahrney's passport, when he left Berne, Switzerland, July 31, 1845, at the age of 29, - for America. He was born in Berne, October 4, 1816. This passport was found in an old trunk at home of Uncle Emile, at Long Beach, California.

Switzerland has three national languages, German, French and Italian.

Public documents are generally written in all these languages. This passport was written in German and French. I have had this translated, copy of which is also attached for each of you.

This passport also contains interesting information, evidently written by Grandfather Fahrney, about Grandmother Fahrney, and their children. This is included in the translation sheets. Also, please note that Grandfather Fahrney originally spelled his name FAHRNI, then later on FAHRNY, then finally, FAHRNEY.

Grandmother Fahrney's maiden name was Höphfinger, born in the former Duchy of Baden, February 4, 1822 (adjoins Switzerland). Am attaching information about Baden, as taken from a textbook. You will note this Duchy became a part of the German Confederation in 1870.

Unfortunately some of the passport pages have been torn out, which may have included pictures.

(Delmer obtained these photostatic copies of the passport for all of us).

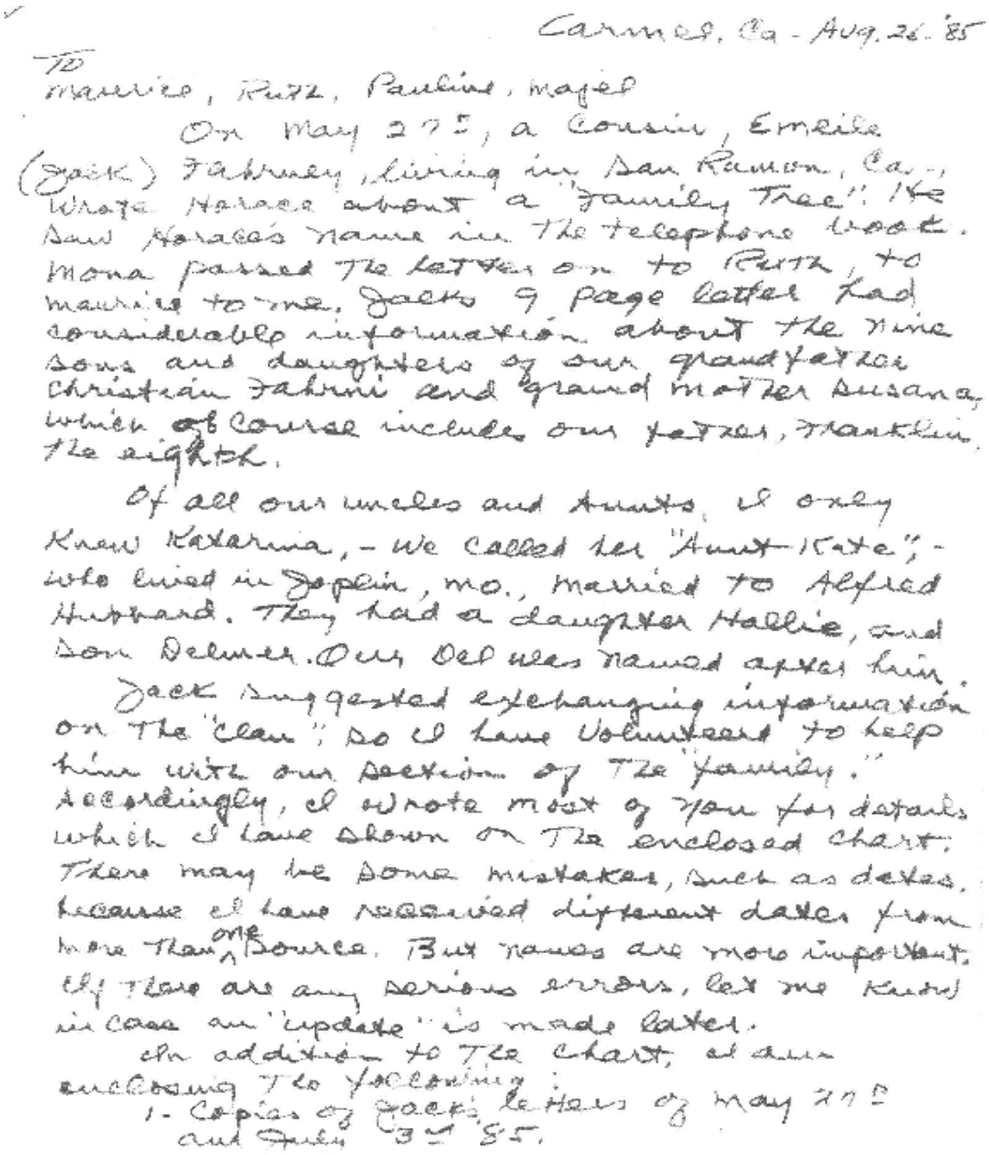
(Paul)

Signature of Paul Lanier Fahrney

In 1944, Paul and Delmer Fahrney were respectively 47 and 46 years old. Both must have been extremely busy with their high profile professional careers. As a top executive with Standard Oil, Paul most certainly did not have much free time to dedicate to genealogy. The same must have been true for Delmer, as a Rear Admiral of the US Navy during the time of World War II. We can, therefore, not speculate on the extent of the two brothers' family research after 1945, as no data was found that could offer an insight into what they each did on their project.

But we can look ahead to 40 years later. Indeed, in 1985, we find a busy exchange of correspondence between Emeile (Jack) Fahrney (1923-2003) and his uncle Paul, then 88, and long retired from Standard Oil. This new interest in the Fahrney lineage may have happened by coincidence, as it follows the death of Rear Admiral Delmer the year before. By a stretch of the imagination, it may just be possible that Jack and Paul discussed genealogy during the burial of the Rear Admiral and both then committed to continue their research. Their correspondence shows, without any doubt, that Jack, then 62 years old, was the driving force behind the resumption of the family research and Paul was the motivator. Paul's letter below, dated 26 August 1985, to his direct family members confirms that his nephew Jack had obtained considerable information on the Fahrney clan. It can be said without any reservation that without the meticulous and dedicated genealogical research of Jack, the present Ohio Fahrney family tree would not exist. I deeply regret not having met my distant cousin Jack, as he unfortunately passed away a few years before my own Swiss Fahrni research attained generation 9 and the Ohio Fahrney Lineage. And I must also express my deepest gratitude to Jack's widow, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Fahrney-Ayer, who has become a dear friend, for having forwarded to me many documents of her husband's genealogical research.

Last but not least, I also want to acknowledge the expertise and express my many thanks to my friend Lynn Dougherty of Tampa, Florida, who generously provided me with the many Census reports and other data and vital statistics which enabled me to fine tune the Fahrney tree. I am especially indebted to Lynn for having found and put me in contact with Elizabeth Fahrney-Ayer in San Ramon. Lynn's support and contributions to my research were enormous.



Carmel, Ca - Aug. 26. '85

To
Maurice, Ruth, Pauline, Majel

On May 27, a Cousin, Emeile (Jack) Fahrney, living in San Ramon, Ca., wrote Horace about a "family Tree". He saw Horace's name in the telephone book. Mona passed the letter on to Ruth, to Maurice to me. Jacks 9 page letter had considerable information about the nine sons and daughters of our grandfather Christian Fahrni and grand mother Susana, which of course includes our father, Franklin, the eighth.

Of all our uncles and Aunts, I only knew Katarina, - We called her "Aunt Kate", - who lived in Joplin, Mo., married to Alfred Hubbard. They had a daughter Hallie, and Son Delmer. Our Del was named after him.

Jack suggested exchanging information on the "clan"; so I have volunteered to help him with our section of the "family." Accordingly, I wrote most of you for details which I have shown on the enclosed chart. There may be some mistakes, such as dates, because I have received different dates from more than one source. But names are more important. If there are any serious errors, let me know in case an "update" is made later.

In addition to the chart, I am enclosing the following:
1 - Copies of Jack's letters of May 27th and July 3rd & 5.

Signed by Paul Lanier Fahrney

Letter dated 26 August 1985 addressed to his siblings still alive:
Maurice; Ruth; Pauline; Majel. With copies to :

Emeile Jack, nephew;
Ruth, Delmer's daughter-in-law;
Dawn, Delmer's daughter;
Andre, Delmer's son-in-law;
Helen, Delmer's second wife;
Mona, brother Horace's wife;
Mike, brother Maurice's daughter;

Dr. Gordon Fahrni, Vancouver, of the Canadian Fahrni lineage.

Let us now return to the arrival in New York of our Johann Christian, on 23 September 1845. He had, by then, two months of stressful and uncomfortable travelling behind him from the time he had left his Berner Oberland. His thoughts of the unknown must have been intense. JCF had left everything behind him, knowing there was no way to return. We know for a fact that no family was awaiting JCF in New Philadelphia, but it is possible that he had some addresses to contact upon arrival. Considering that JCF obtained a legal immigration from the State of Ohio on 9 0ctober 1845, only two weeks after reaching the USA, it seems to indicate that there may have been some prior arrangements for our ancestor.

It would be interesting to know what kind of transportation was taken by our Johann Christian from New York to New Philadelphia. By then, there existed canals connecting the Atlantic coast to the Ohio valleys. Also, the railroad networks just started to be developed, but only existed within the confines of each state. Probably, JCF travelled by rail to Baltimore, then to Pittsburgh and finally to New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, taking three different private railway companies. The estimated travel time for this itinerary was one week in 1845. From there, he moved South to Jefferson Township where he settled.

Only 50 years earlier, this region was covered with dense forest and was inhabited by the Goshen Indians. With the arrival of the first settlers, the forests were cleared to create finely cultivated farmland. The first house was built in 1802 by John Knisely, the founder of the future town of New Philadelphia. Before moving West, John Knisely was a miller in Pennsylvania. He was the first to set up a gristmill in New Philadelphia.

Although JCF was a miller back in Switzerland, he did not, from the very start, venture into buying the necessary machinery for grinding corn. Because he did not know the land and the traditions in the new country, as a prudent investor he purchased 40 acres of land. He planted crops, principally wheat, Indian corn and oat which he probably took to the Knisely gristmill to be converted into flour for bread. According to the 1850 Production of Agriculture Census hereafter, JCF raised some livestock, one horse and eight cows. The milk would be made into butter and cheese for the family's own consumption and for selling. He also possessed 10 sheep and 11 swine. The total value of the farm with livestock and machinery was estimated at $960.- ($28000 in today values) in the census. Only when he was sure that the land was fertile and the environment favorable, would JCF invest in a gristmill and return to his line of business of grinding corn. In the 1850 Federal Census, JCF listed his occupation as a miller but the Census of Agriculture shows that he was both a farmer and a miller. Our ancestor must have operated a water-powered gristmill on one of the Jefferson high water creeks.

On 22nd October 1848, JCF married Suzanna Hophfinger in the city of New Philadelphia. Suzanna was of German parentage and was born on 4 February 1822 in Baden Baden, Germany. She had immigrated to the state of Ohio on 26 August 1843. About one year after they married, Johann Christian Fahrni/Fahrney and Suzanna Hophfinger had their first child, a John Christian, Jr., who was born on 19 August 1849 in New Philadelphia. This was the fourth year for JCF and the sixth year for Suzanna, after immigrating to America.

We see below JCF's naturalization & family in the US Census of 8 August 1850. Magdalena Hep/Hophfinger, (13) and born in Germany, was a relative of Susan. Family names are spelled phonetically and dates approximate by the census takers; also JCF's arrival in the USA was 1845, not 1850 as stated below.

1850 United States Federal Census about Christian Forney

Name:	**Christian Forney**
Age:	34
Birth Year:	abt 1816
Birthplace:	Switzerland
Home in 1850:	New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas, Ohio
Gender:	Male
Family Number:	212

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Christian Forney	34
	Susan Forney	28
	Christian Forney	0
	Magdalena Heppinger	13



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U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s about Christian Fahrny

Name:	**Christian Fahrny**
Arrival Year:	1850
Arrival Place:	Ohio
Source Publication Code:	6028
Primary Immigrant:	Fahrny, Christian
Annotation:	Date and place of naturalization.
Source Bibliography:	NATURALIZATIONS FROM TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO. In Ohio Records and Pioneer Families (Ohio Genealogical Society, Mansfield, OH), vol. 46:2, pp. 62-70; vol. 46:3, pp. 115-123.
Page:	118

Six weeks after the above Federal Census, a Non-Population Census "Production of Agriculture" was taken, which shows (below) our JCF as a miller and farmer residing in the Jefferson Township, not far from New Philadelphia.

Scheduled U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedule

Name:	**Christian Forney**
Location:	Jefferson, Tuscarawas, Ohio, USA
Enumeration Date:	25 Sep 1850
Schedule Type:	Agriculture
Line Number:	30



Vi

Two more children were born to the Fahrney family while living in Jefferson Township. They were Elizabeth on 25 January 1851 and Gottfried on 7 May 1852. Gottfried died as a toddler in 1854. The Fahrney family had been settled near New Philadelphia for eight years now and for unknown reasons, they felt it was time to look elsewhere. There is some mention in the history books of Tuscarawas county that these simple mills of early days in the region were run by the high water creeks. Due to persistent water shortages, these water creeks gradually dwindled to mere small streams, which could explain JCF's departure.

In 1854, the JCF couple, with their two surviving children, moved to the northwest part of the state of Ohio to the village of Lockport, near Stryker, in Williams County. As a miller, this relocation made sense as Lockport's main activity in those days was also the mills. The land was good and fertile for farming and growing grains, which seems to support the idea that our JCF owned a water-powered gristmill on the Tiffin River; and it supplied flour to the pioneers.

As the first white settlers had arrived in this region only 20 years earlier, Lockport did not have many residents in 1854 Early records say that the settlement was started by Christian Lauber, Walter Stucki and Peter Aeschlimann, all Anabaptists originating from canton Bern, Switzerland. This is the reason why the Mennonite church of Lockport became the central congregation place for the region.

When the Fahrney family arrived in Lockport, there probably were not more than 20 families living there. The town had a general store, a cemetery, a school and a church. Upon arrival to Lockport, our ancestors most certainly had to live in their wagon while the wooden log house was being built.

Unknown to JCF, there was a major problem with the transportation of goods in the area. This problem would soon jeopardize his future business there. The millers were expecting that the railroad, then under construction, would go through Lockport for the supply, in and out, of goods. Unfortunately, this did not happen as the railway company went bankrupt. As a result, Lockport did not prosper and the mills on the river passed through successive owners before closing down. Later, Lockport was merged with the town of Striker.

Two children were born to the Fahrney family while living in Lockport. They were Lena on 3 March 1854 and Susanne Kathrin on 14 January 1856. JCF was now 40 years old and had endured the first eleven years of hardship in the new country. It appears that his two-year-period in Lockport was not a successful venture; the family was forced to look for a more appropriate place to go on in life.

Sometime during early 1857, JCF packed up and left the state of Ohio to move with his family of four children and settle in southwest Missouri, to Benton Township, near Neosho and Joplin, in Newton County. The distance, with existing roads in these days from Lockport OH to Neosho, must have been over one thousand miles. The move in a wagon pulled by mules or horses, carrying the family and its belongings, must have been a voyage of two months or more.

The first white settlers had moved to the Newton County in the 1820s. A mill was built soon after by the Reding family, near Neosho, to feed the fast growing number of people in the area. The discovery of considerable deposits of lead, zinc and other mineral ore had attracted a large number of miners and prospectors to the area, which helped develop the region. It was not surprising that, in 1857, our Fahrney ancestors discovered an already booming city of Neosho, with a district judge, a courthouse and numerous commercial and residential buildings.

But our John Christian Fahrney was a miller, and as such he would not set up his business in Neosho City. JCF settled in nearby Benton Township which, according to a later Federal Census, was 99 % inhabited by farmers. With a developing population in the region, the demand for flour increased and the milling activity prospered. An attempt is made here to offer an insight into the manner in which JCF had operated his business; we can imagine that he had set up his water powered mill on the River and serviced the needs of the local community the traditional way. The farmers would bring the wheat and corn to the Fahrney mill to have it ground. As per established custom, JCF would keep part of the flour in lieu of payment for the grinding and would then sell this flour to traders supplying the city. But there was also a social side provided by the miller, by bringing the many farmers of the region together while they waited for their grains to be ground. This provided an opportunity for the local farmers to gather in groups for the day, talk about life in general and exchange regional news. While living in Benton Township, one daughter was born to the Fahrney family, on 1 December 1857; her name was Susanna Christina.

Two years later, surprisingly, we find the Fahrney family in the 1860 Census in Kansas Territory. This time, JCF did not move very far; in fact he went about 50 miles west across the Missouri – Kansas border to settle in Cherokee Territory. We must assume that the relocation took place in late 1859, as the census report was dated July, 1860. In the absence of available information, the reason for JCF's move was at first an enigma, until I became aware of the land rush into Cherokee Territory during that period. As a true pioneer, our JCF grabbed the opportunity and partook in the acquisition of good land there.

Reporting a Missouri story unrelated to the family, only a few years after JCF's departure from Newton County, another immigrant from Switzerland settled east of Neosho. Hermann Jaeger, born in 1844 in canton Bern, brought along his knowledge and expertise as a winegrower; he enormously contributed to the fame of the Missouri wine industry of the time. Hermann Jaeger became a celebrated enologist when he discovered a disease resistant grapevine - achieved from crossings with local grape plants. When the European vineyards were struck by the deadly phylloxera plague in 1870, he agreed to ship disease-resistant rootstocks to France, thereby saving their industry. Sadly, Hermann Jaeger committed suicide in 1895, as his wine business went bankrupt due to a Newton County law banning the sale of alcohol. This happened well ahead of prohibition.

The 28 July 1860 Federal census shows the Fahrney family in the Crawford Seminary, McGee County, in Kansas. Crawford Seminary was a mission for Quapaw Indians until 1863, situated nearby present day Baxter Springs. McGee County is now defunct and has become Cherokee County.

1860 United States Federal Census about John C Fahrney

Name:	**John C Fahrney**
Age in 1860:	43
Birth Year:	abt 1817
Birthplace:	Switzerland
Home in 1860:	McGhee, Kansas Territory
Gender:	Male
Post Office:	Crawford Seminary
Value of real estate:	View image

Household Members:	Name	Age
	John C Fahrney	43
	Susan Fahrney	37
	John C Fahrney	10
	Elizabeth Fahrney	9
	Lena Fahrney	6
	Catharine Fahrney	4
	Susannah C Fahrney	2



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It is necessary to understand the reasons for the various name spellings of our ancestor in the Federal and other census. The most common spellings seen so far were Fahrni, Fahrny, Fahrney and Forney; this clearly shows that the census takers were writing down the names phonetically. And it suffices to look at, for instance, the original 1860 census above to see that the document presented by the vital statistics is in a clean and regular handwriting. The above is without doubt a transcribed final version from a draft paper taken by the census takers when doing the house-to-house visits. And in the transcription of these census reports back in the office, the spelling depended very much on the person writing it down.

In 1850, John Baxter built his first house a short distance from the Spring River. He later took claim of the surrounding land that became Baxter Springs. As the territory had large amounts of prairie land and abundant sources of water, the government began to sell land to white settlers as of 1856. Apparently, these land sales were contrary to the treaties with the Cherokee tribes, which resulted in raids and skirmishes on the newcomers. In 1859, our John Christian Fahrney was, therefore, among the first settlers into McGee County. Our ancestor's family must have experienced the still true frontier life; the life on the outpost of civilization.

Other settlers followed, pushing west to McGee County in search of available fields and finally investing their savings in the purchase of the land of their dream. As the land was good for growing wheat, oats, rye and corn, there was a rapidly increasing number of settlers migrating from the east. As a miller, JCF welcomed this grain growing development; his business must have been flourishing. Baxter Springs was to become an important cow town, a stopping and resting place for the herds on their journey to the north. It should not be difficult to visualize the saloon life in Baxter Springs, with the passing trigger-happy cow-boys of that Wild West.

In addition to their already five children, our JCF and his wife Susan had three more during their stay in Crawford, near Baxter Springs; these were Franklin Christian born on 1 August 1860, and the twins Emile Fred and Emilena born on 14 March 1862. A family story indicates that Susan Fahrney-Hophfinger was baking bread for the Union troops stationed in Baxter Springs. Being the wife of the miller Fahrney, this narrative could make sense, but it is really sad that the details of this story did not survive to this day.

These must have been unimaginably difficult times considering the Civil War that began in 1861. McGee County was alternately occupied by both opposing forces; the area suffered from numerous and bloody border raids. The major military event in this county was the Baxter Springs massacre, on 6 October 1863, when over 100 Union troops were killed by 300 Confederates. Understandably, the experience and sufferings endured during this period must have been too horrible for family anecdotes being transmitted down the ancestral line. Franklin was just three years old; the twin siblings one-and-a-half-years old at the time of the carnage. According to documents of the period, marauding Confederates were looting the area for quite some time after the massacre, and one can wonder how the Fahrney family had managed to survive this ordeal.

According to historical documents, by the end of 1863 the Union army camp was moved from Baxter Springs to Neosho, Newton County, MO. In addition, the Crawford seminary Indian mission was closed down during the same period.

It seems that our Fahrney family moved out of Baxter Springs soon after, as the 1865 Census hereafter reports them 80 miles north in Marion Township, Bourbon County, Kansas.

JCF moves his family to Neosho, Newton County

Kansas State Census Collection, 1855-1925 about J C Forney

Name:	**J C Forney**
Census Date:	24 Jul 1865
Residence County:	Bourbon
Residence State:	Kansas
Locality:	Marion
Birth Location:	Switzerland
Family Number:	619
Marital Status:	Married
Gender:	Male
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1817
Race:	White
LINE:	16
Roll:	ks1865_2



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Household Member(s):	Name	Age
	J C Forney	48
	Susanna Forney	43
	Christian Forney	14
	Elizabeth Forney	13
	Sarah Forney	11
	Catharine Forney	10
	Susanna Forney	7
	Frank Forney	6
	Emma Forney	4
	Emily Forney	3

The Census report shows all eight children of the family, with John Christian Junior at the approximate age of 14 instead of the real 16. The last-born twins, Emile and Emilena, have their name misspelled, indicating that the well-preserved Swiss Wanderbuch of the father was not presented to the Census takers. JCF declared himself as a miller by profession, and the 1865 value of his personal estate was estimated at US$700.-.

Below is an old family narrative sent to me by Frank Clark, a descendant of Susanna-Christina Fahrney-Ball, the sixth child of JCF & Susan.

Quote: Johann (JCF) and his family lived in Baxter Springs during the first part of the war between the States. The town was nearly wiped out by the guerilla raiders, yet none of the Fahrney family was killed. They then moved over the state line to Missouri (Joplin, Newton County) and almost the same thing happened there. God was really with them. The family story is that Susanna Fahrney baked bread for the Union army during the war.

I saw your chart but did not know where Peter Fahrney fit in, but he did very well with their medicine. I have a bottle from the 1880's marked Fahrney's Patent Medicine and there are quite an abundance of them on e-bay. Apparently, Peter Fahrney and Sons owned the patent of medicine company for close to a hundred years. There is also a Fahrney branch that got into pens and stationery and might still be going; they celebrated their 75th anniversary not too long ago. Unquote.

(My own comments to the above paragraph by Frank are that:

1) The paper trail of the two above Fahrney lines indicate that their ancestors originated from Eriz, near Steffisburg, like our lineage.
2) However, we do not yet possess any DNA reading from these two Fahrney families that would confirm a bloodline match to our own Fahrni line.)

Quote: Another family story is that of **"Frank, Pete and the Mules"** which was told by Susan Fahrney-Hophfinger to her granddaughter Ibbie Faith Clark who told it to my mom Lea Clark. Johann's son Chris (John-Christian Fahrney Jr.) came to the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) and wrote back to his parents asking them to buy a grist mill and send it to him. It was in 1877 that two of the brothers, Pete (nickname for Emil Frederick), and Franklin-Christopher together with their sister Sue (Susanna-Christina Fahrney) started down the trail with the grist mill to Boggy Depot, Indian Territory. But when they camped one night in NE Oklahoma the Indians stole their horses. So they had to go back to Missouri and buy mules, because supposedly the Indians would not steal mules. The next attempt they made it to Atoka county and set up the grist mill together with Chris. It was there that Sue met and married Landon C. Ball, my great grandfather. With this grist mill saga, Sue Fahrney became my great grandmother. Unquote.

I am grateful to Lea Clark Buckley, the mother of Frank, for her help by generously sharing family anecdotes and stories about the first Fahrney generation members. Lea also sent me a copy of the Clark line's Wanderbuch of JCF.

Five years later, the 1870 Census report shows the Fahrney family back in the Neosho area, Newton County, MO, the place they were located earlier, from 1857 to 1859. JCF was declared as a miller and his value of real estate was $150.- and the value of personal estate was estimated at $826.-.

1870 United States Federal Census about John C Forney

Name:	**John C Forney**
Age in 1870:	54
Birth Year:	abt 1816
Birthplace:	Switzerland
Home in 1870:	Benton, Newton, Missouri
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Post Office:	Newtonia
Value of real estate:	View image

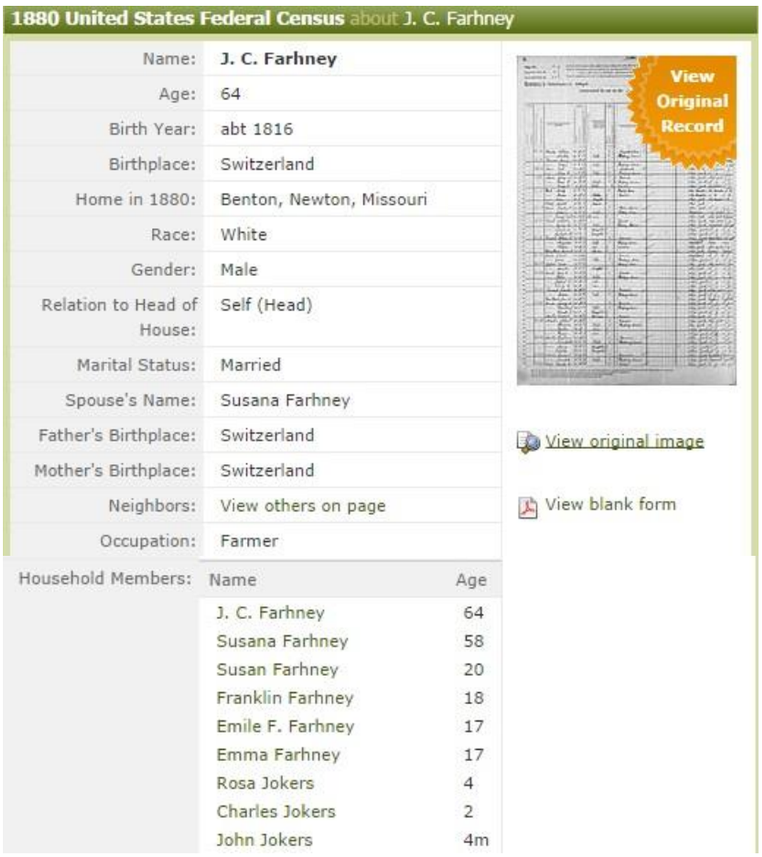


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Household Members:	Name	Age
	John C Forney	54
	Susannah Forney	48
	John C Forney	20
	Elizabeth Forney	19
	Lena Forney	16
	Catarina Forney	14
	Susannah Forney	12
	Franklin Forney	9
	Emma Forney	8
	Familia Forney	8
	Casper Rod	71

In 1870, the family was still living together in its entirety with all eight of their children. The eldest child, John Christian Junior, was now 21 years old and declared as a farmer. The two youngest, Emile Fred and Emilena (misspelled on the census) were 8 years old. It can be said that all eight children needed a good education which was probably lacking in Benton Township. Hence the important presence of Mr. Caspar Rod, declared in the census as a teacher is revealed. Much credit must be given to the Fahrney parents for having hired a full-time teacher to ensure success to the next generation.



1880 United States Federal Census about J. C. Farhney

Name:	J. C. Farhney
Age:	64
Birth Year:	abt 1816
Birthplace:	Switzerland
Home in 1880:	Benton, Newton, Missouri
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Relation to Head of House:	Self (Head)
Marital Status:	Married
Spouse's Name:	Susana Farhney
Father's Birthplace:	Switzerland
Mother's Birthplace:	Switzerland
Neighbors:	View others on page
Occupation:	Farmer

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Household Members:	Name	Age
	J. C. Farhney	64
	Susana Farhney	58
	Susan Farhney	20
	Franklin Farhney	18
	Emile F. Farhney	17
	Emma Farhney	17
	Rosa Jokers	4
	Charles Jokers	2
	John Jokers	4m

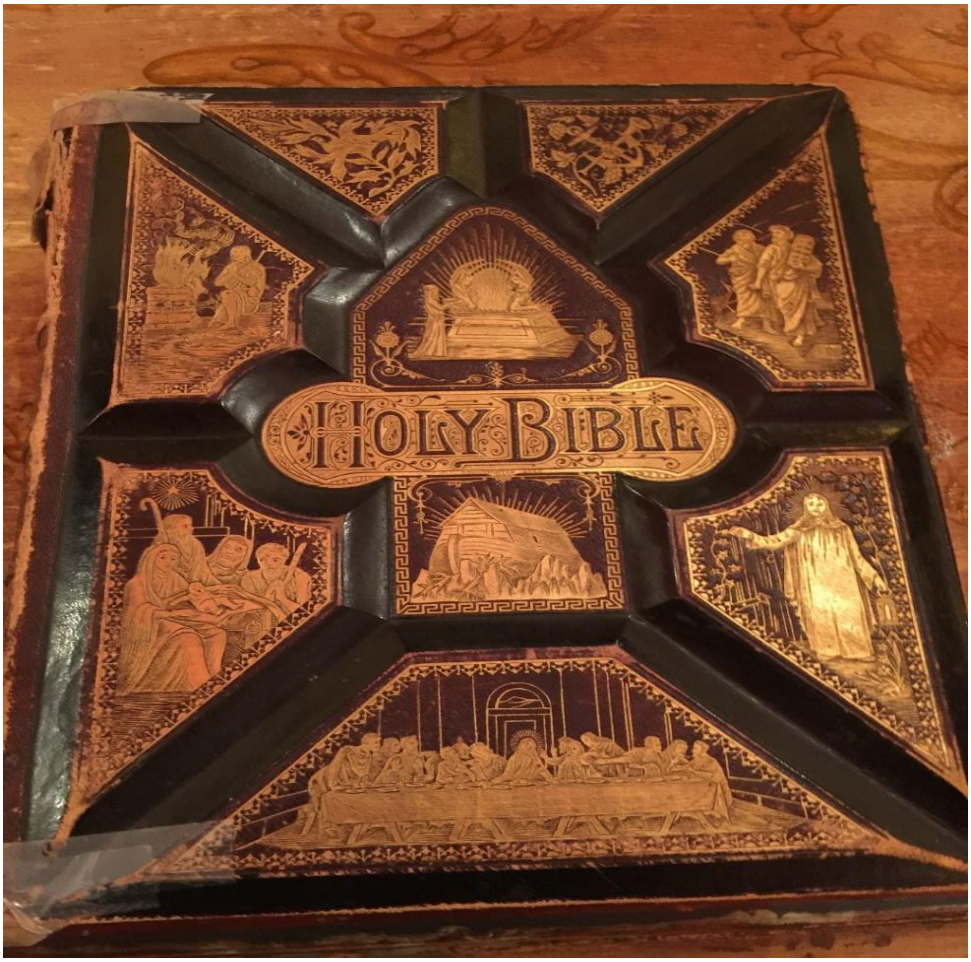
As can be seen above, in 1880 the four eldest children have now left home. John Christian Junior is now 31 and married to Sarah Jones; Elizabeth is 29 and married to Charlee Joker; Lena is 26 and married to George Fike and Susanne Kathrine is 24 and married to Alfred Hubbard.

The four children still at home are Susanne Christina, 23, who would marry Landon Ball three years later; Franklin Christian, 20 years old, and declared as a farmer helping his father. The two siblings Emile and Emilena are also at home, aged 18.

Appearing on the census are also three toddlers - Rosa, Charles and John Jokers - declared as children belonging to the family. These were the children of Elizabeth Fahrney and Charlee Joker mentioned above, who married in 1874. Elizabeth had died on 30 Mar.1880, a few months after giving birth to John, and the grand parents took care of the three orphans.

The above was the last Federal Census reporting on John Christian Fahrney, who would die the following year, in early 1881, aged 64. Besides being the progenitor of a very prolific and successful Fahrney lineage, JCF also left an important legacy to his descendants with his well-known "Wanderbuch", also commonly known to the family as "The Traveling Journeyman's Book". This 32-page travel document was issued by the Swiss authorities to 29-year-old Johann Christian Fahrni in 1845, prior to his departure to America. The first 15 pages of this Wanderbuch bear JCF handwriting, first in German and later in English, as he meticulously recorded the birth and place of birth of his children, as well as his own details and those of his wife.

Three different Fahrney branches have sent me a copy of their own Wanderbuch that was forwarded to them down their own lineage. The changed handwritings, as of page 16, clearly indicate that the generations that followed JCF went on to keep this original book updated with wedding, birth and death details up to the 1950s' and probably to this day. One Fahrney line generously converted this Wanderbuch into a luxurious Family Bible cover, as shown below.





Nr. 4116.

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft.

Kanton Bern.

Wanderbuch

(enthaltend zwei und dreißig Blätter)

für

den Müller gesellen

Christian Fahrni

von Eriz-Sonnseite, Kirchgemeinde Schwarzenegg, Oberamts Thun, Kantons Bern

alt 29 Jahre,

hoch 5 Fuß, 4 Zoll französisch Maaß,

hat blondes Haare, breite Stirne,

blaue Augen, gutbogichte Nase,

klein Mund, rundes Kinn,

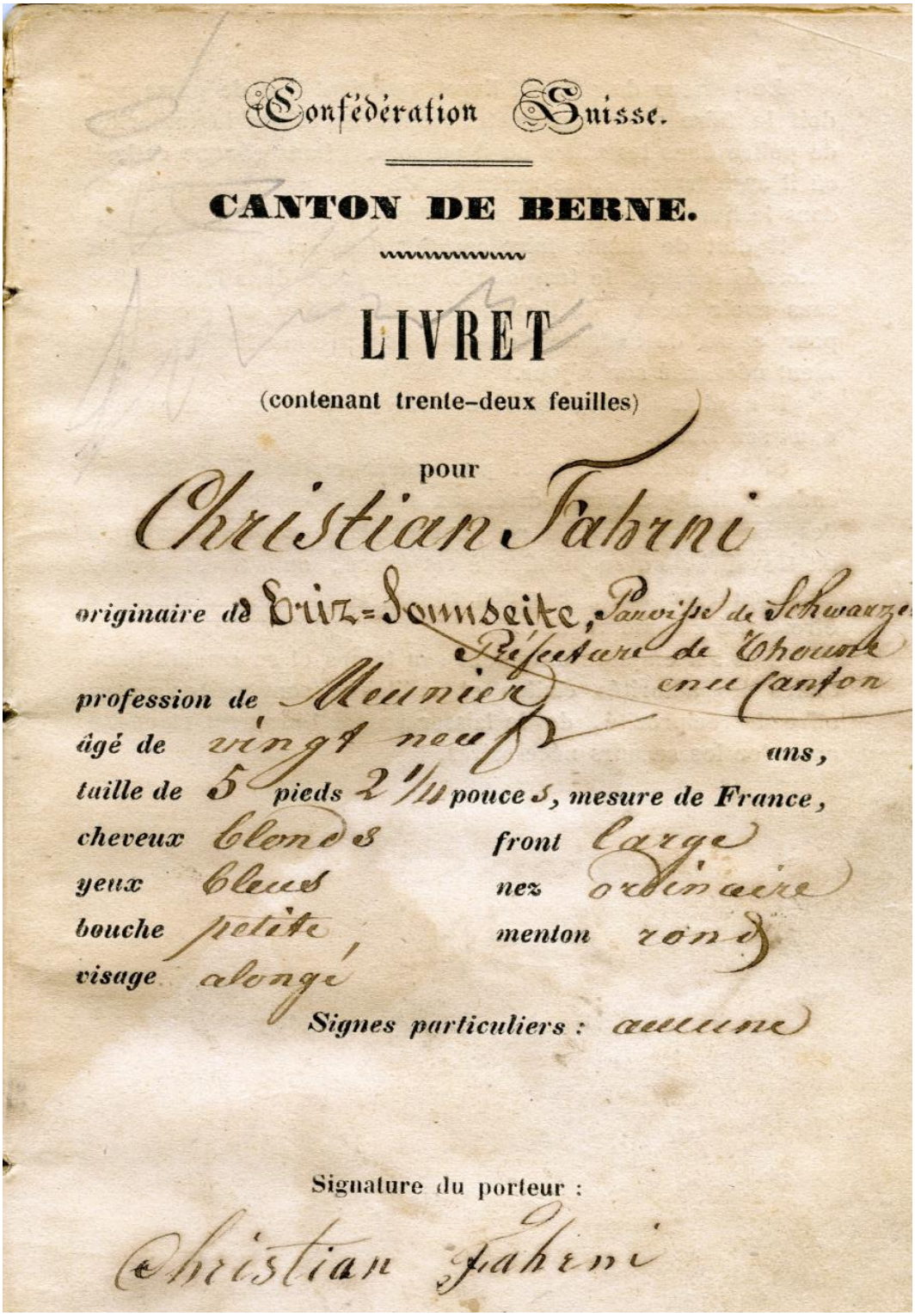
längliches Gesicht.

Besondere Merkmale: braun

Unterschrift des Inhabers:

Christian Fahrni

Miller by profession
Christian Fahrni
From Eriz Sun-flank, Parish of Schwarzenegg, canton Bern
Twenty nine years old



Confédération Suisse.

CANTON DE BERNE.

LIVRET

(contenant trente-deux feuilles)

pour

Christian Fahrni

originaire de Brüz-Sounseite, Paroisse de Schwarzenburg, Préfecture de Thoune en ce canton

profession de Meunier

âgé de vingt neuf ans,

taille de 5 pieds 2 11/11 pouces, mesure de France,

cheveux blonds — front large

yeux bleus — nez ordinaire

bouche petite — menton rond

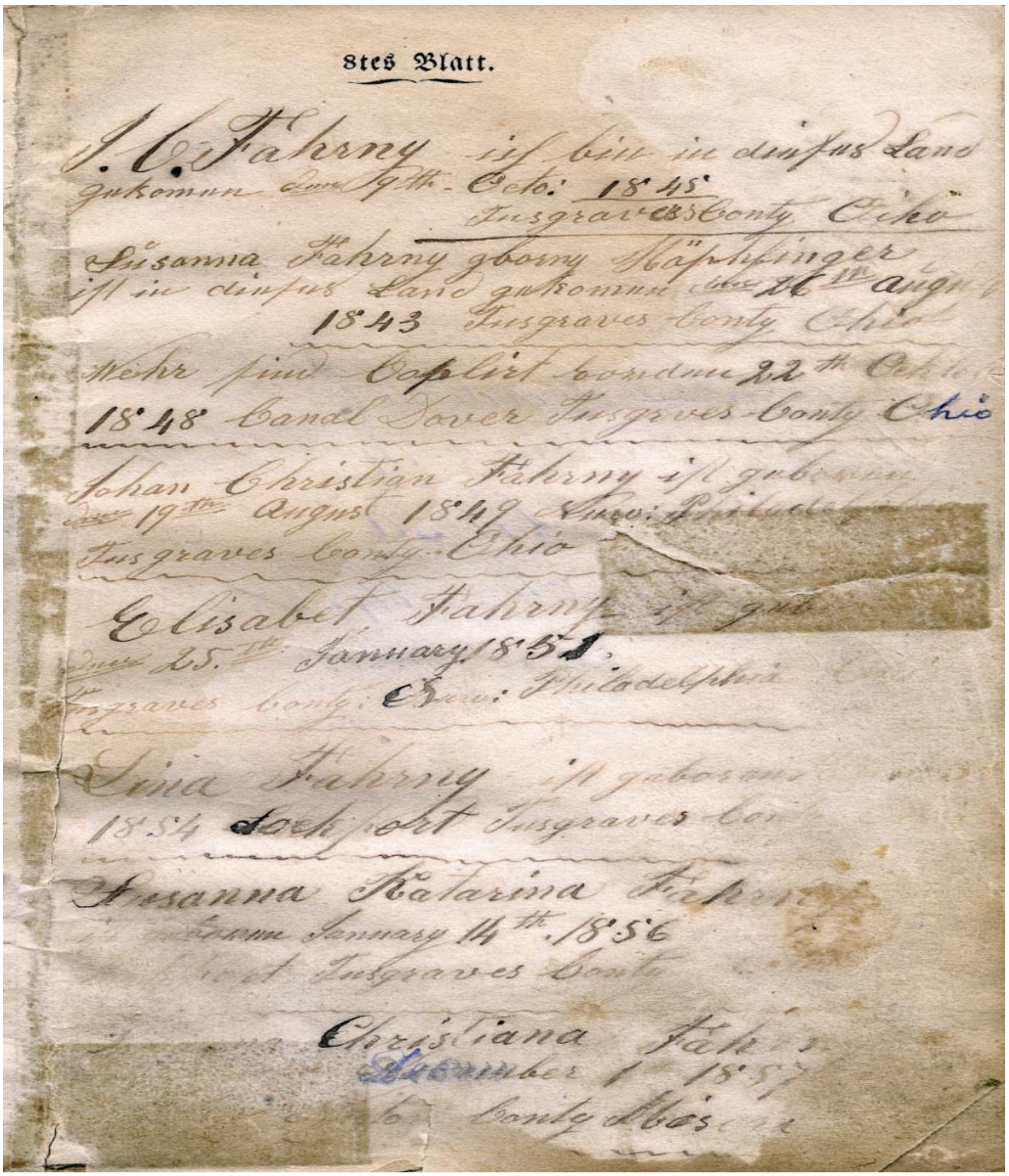
visage allongé

Signes particuliers : aucune

Signature du porteur :

Christian Fahrni

JCF's Wanderbuch in French to enable him to travel through France to embark at Le Havre Port for America.



I came to this land on 9 Oct.1845 to Tuscarawas County in Ohio.

Susanna Fahrny, born Hophfinger, came to this land on 26 Aug.1843.

We married on 22 Oct.1848 in Canal Dover, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

Johan Christian Fahrny, born 19 Aug.1849 in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Elisabeth Fahrny, born on 25 Jan.1851 in Tusgraves County, Ohio.

Lena Fahrni, born on 3 Mar.1854 in Lockport, Tusgraves County.

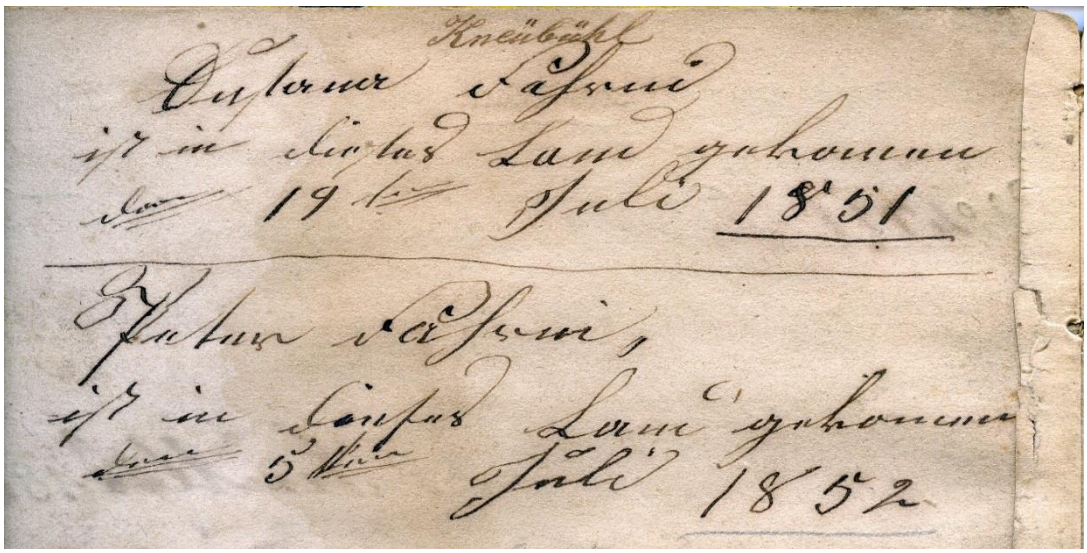
Susanna Katarina Fahrny, born on 14 Jan.1856 in Lockport, Tusgraves C.

Christina Fahrny, born on 1 Dec.1857 in Neosho, Benton Tws, Newton C.

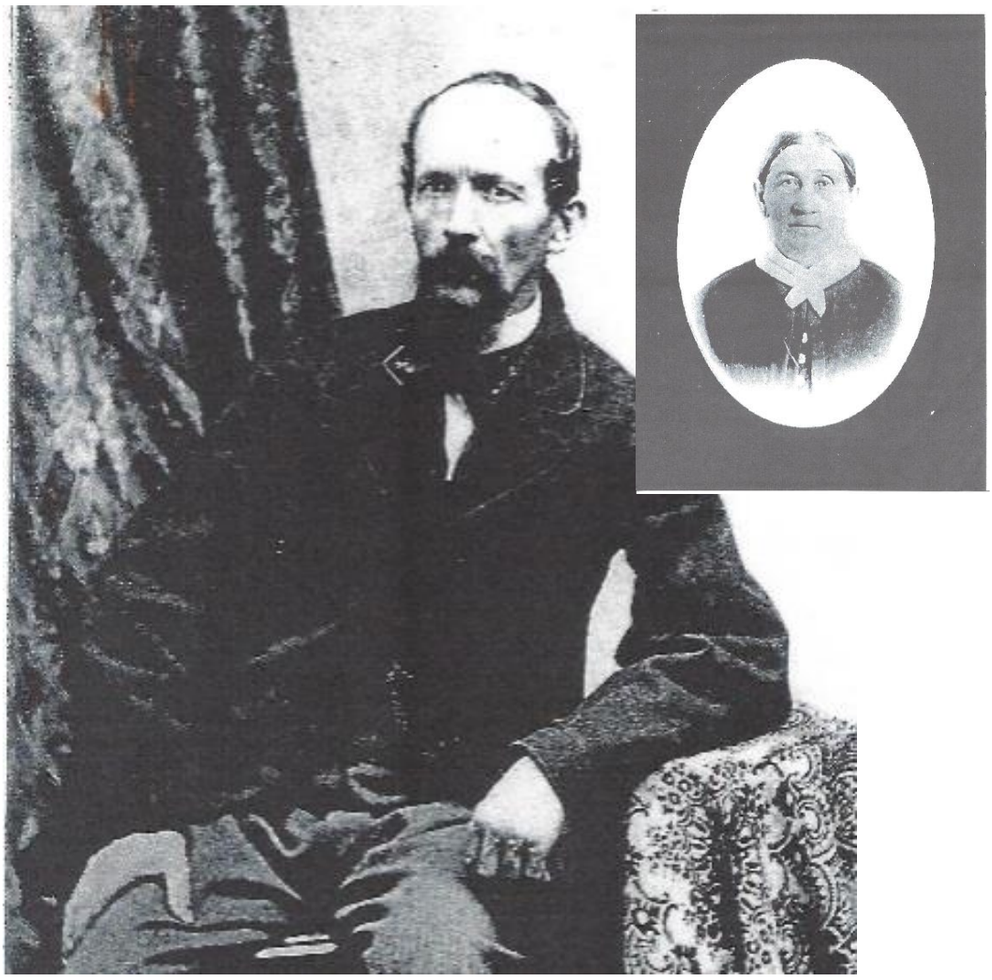
JCF Wanderbuch p.9 & 10



Franklin Fahrny, born on 1 Aug.1860 in Kansas Government Strip.
Emel Friedrich Fahrny, born on 14 Mar.1862.
Emilena Luisa Fahrny, born on 14 March 1862 in Kansa Government Strip.



(Sister) Susanna Kneubuhl-Fahrni came to this land on19 Jul.1851.
(Half-brother) Peter Fahrni came to this land on 5 Jul.1852.



Johann Christian Fahrni, born on the 6th and baptized on the 13th of October 1816 in Gwatt, near Thun, canton Bern, Switzerland. He was the son of Christian Fahrni and Suzanna Scherz. Johann Christian immigrated to the State of Ohio on 9 October 1845. He married Suzanna Hophfinger on 22 October 1848 in New Philadelphia, Ohio. Suzanna Hophfinger was born on 4 February 1822 in Baden-Baden, Germany.

John Christian Fahrney died on 7 Feb. 1881 when he was a few months short of his 65th birthday. His wife Susan Fahrney survived her John Christian by another 15 years and she died on 4 Nov.1895. They are both buried at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri where their two gravestones can be seen.

John Christian Fahrney

Birth: 13 Oct.1816
in canton Bern,

Switzerland

Married in 1848 in

New Philadelphia OH

Death: Feb.7, 1881

In Neosho, Newton

County, Missouri

Burial:

Odd Fellow Cemetery

Neosho
Newton County
Missouri, USA

Family links:
Spouse:
Susan Fahrney -

Hophfinger



Application for Letters of Administration.

STATE OF MISSOURI, } ss
COUNTY OF NEWTON. }

In the Matter of John L. Fahrney Estate:

Wm R Hubbard says that to the best of his knowledge and belief, the names of the heirs of the said John L. Fahrney deceased, and their places of residences, are respectively as follows:

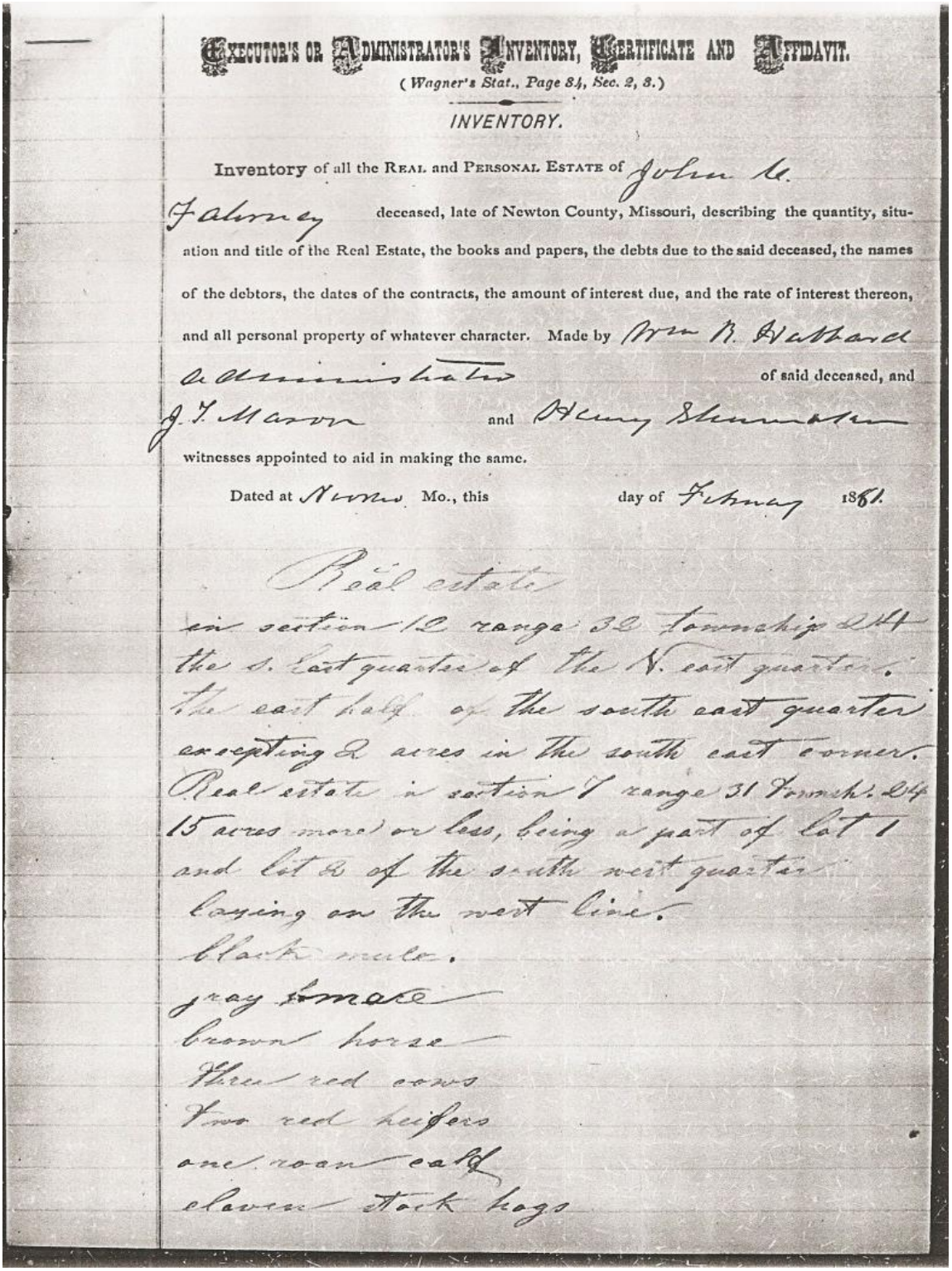
John L Fahrney, who resides in the county of Chautauqua Kansas, ~~in the State of~~ ;
Rosa Julia O'Cheely Fahrney, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Missouri ; Lena Fahrney, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Missouri ;
Leahmina Hubbard, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Mo. ; Susan Fahrney, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Mo. ;
Frank Fahrney, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Mo ; Emma V Emily Fahrney twin who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Mo ;
, who resides in the County of , in the State of ;
who resides in the County of , in the State of ;

that the said John L Fahrney died without a will; that I will make a perfect inventory of, and faithfully administer all of the estate of the deceased, and pay the debts as far as the assets will extend and the law direct, and account for and pay all assets which shall come to my possession or knowledge.

Subscribed and ~~sworn~~ affirmed to before me, this 17th day of February A. D. 1887.

P T Canaras Judge.

W R Hubbard



EXECUTOR'S OR ADMINISTRATOR'S INVENTORY, CERTIFICATE AND AFFIDAVIT.

(*Wagner's Stat., Page 84, Sec. 2, 3.*)

INVENTORY.

Inventory of all the REAL and PERSONAL ESTATE of John A. Fahrney deceased, late of Newton County, Missouri, describing the quantity, situation and title of the Real Estate, the books and papers, the debts due to the said deceased, the names of the debtors, the dates of the contracts, the amount of interest due, and the rate of interest thereon, and all personal property of whatever character. Made by Wm R. Hubbard administrator of said deceased, and J. T. Mason and Henry Shumaker witnesses appointed to aid in making the same.

Dated at Neosho Mo., this day of February 1861.

Real estate
in section 12 range 32 Township 24
the S. East quarter of the N. east quarter.
the east half of the south east quarter
excepting 2 acres in the south east corner.
Real estate in section 7 range 31 Townsh. 24
15 acres more or less, being a part of Lot 1
and Lot 2 of the south west quarter
laying on the west side.
Black mule.
gray horse
brown horse
Three red cows
Two red heifers
one roan calf
eleven stock hogs

Susan Fahrney Hophfinger

Mar. 4, 1822
Baden-Württemberg, Germany
Death: Nov. 4, 1895
Neosho
Newton County
Missouri, USA

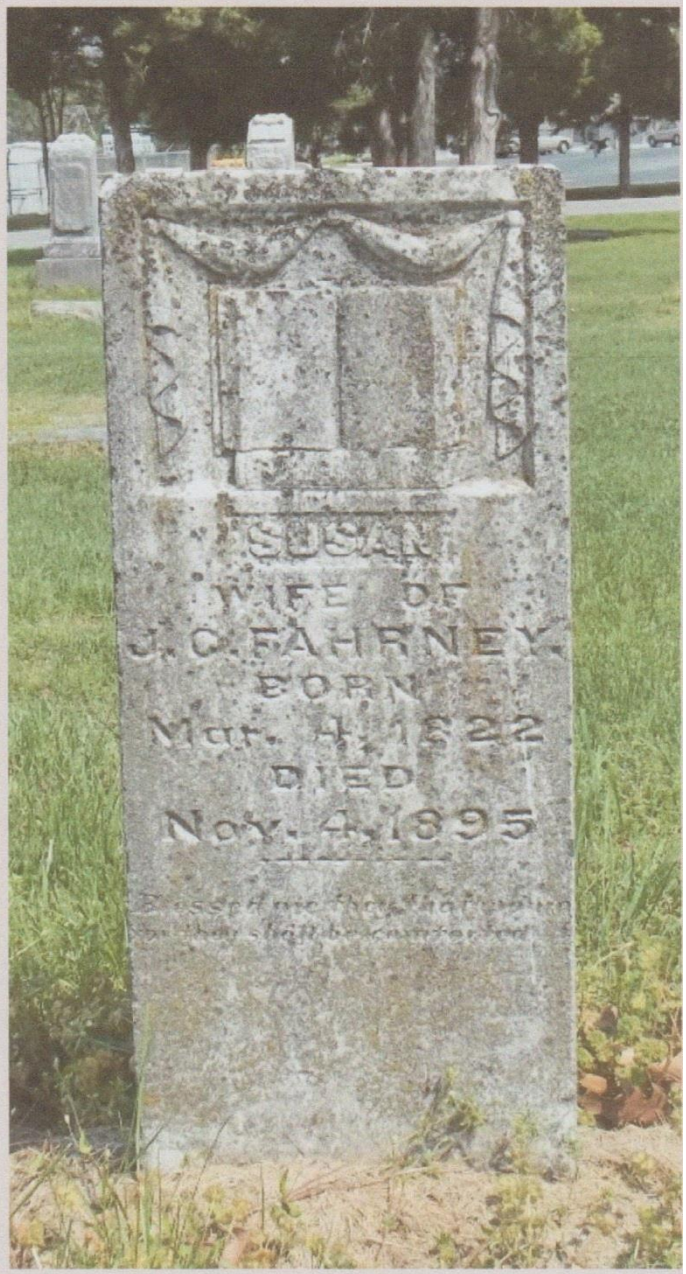
Children:
John Christian Fahrny 1849 – 1921
Elizabeth F Fahrny 1851 –
Lena Fahrny 1854 – 1947
Catharine Fahrny 1856 –
Susanna Christina Fahrney 1858 – 1928
Franklin F Fahrny 1861 –
Emanual F Fahrny 1862 –
Emma Fahrny 1862 –

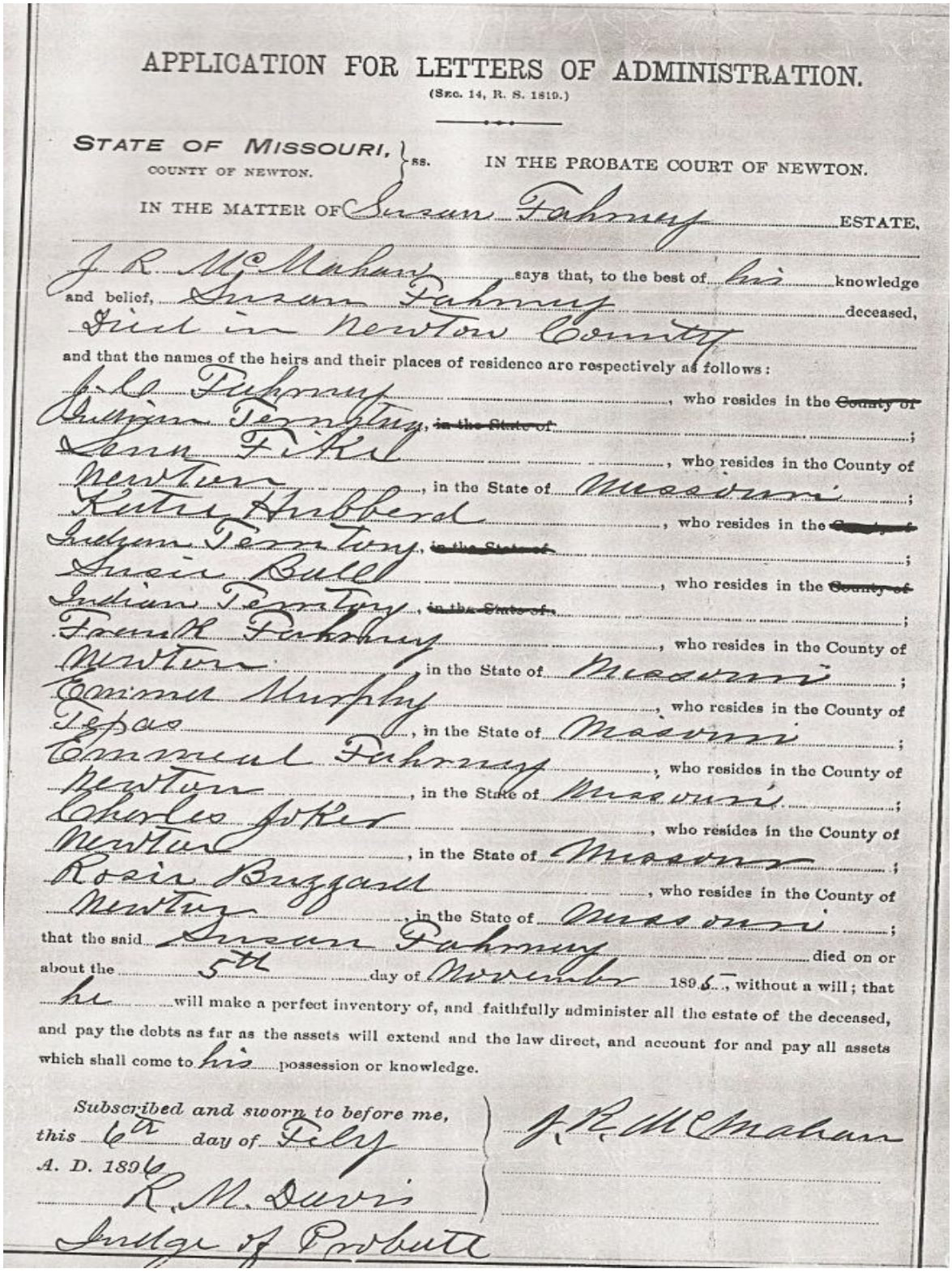
Family links:
Spouse:
John Christian Fahrney (1816 - 1881)*

Children:
Elizabeth *Fahrney* Jokers (1851 - 1880)*

*Calculated relationship

Burial:
Odd Fellows Cemetery
Neosho
Newton County
Missouri, USA





APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION.

(Sec. 14, R. S. 1819.)

STATE OF MISSOURI, } ss. IN THE PROBATE COURT OF NEWTON.
COUNTY OF NEWTON.

IN THE MATTER OF Susan Fahrney ESTATE.

J. R. McMahan says that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, Susan Fahrney deceased, died in Newton County and that the names of the heirs and their places of residence are respectively as follows:

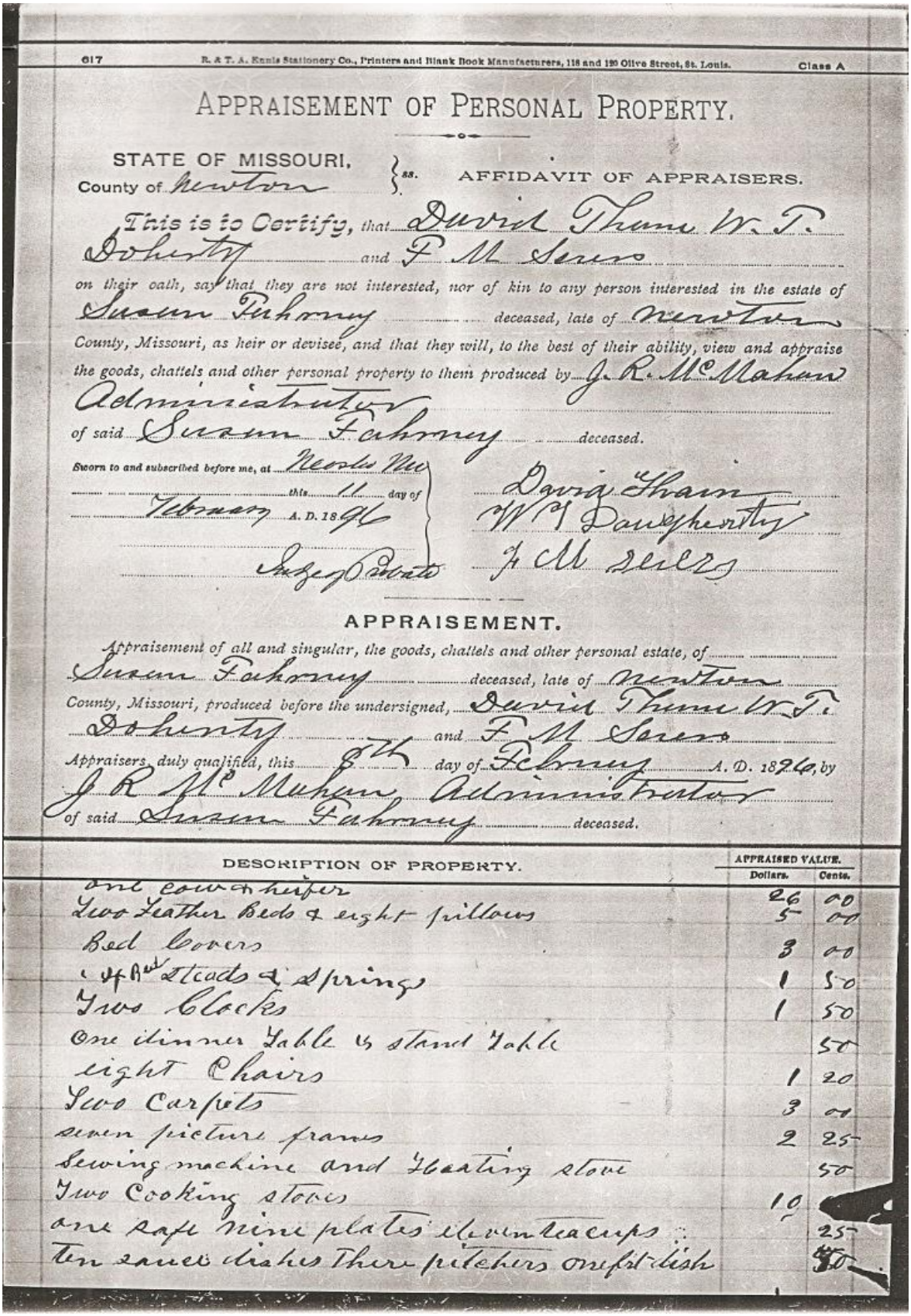
J. O. Fahrney, who resides in the ~~County of~~ Gallatin Territory, ~~in the State of~~;
Lewis Fikel, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Missouri;
Kitty Hubbard, who resides in the ~~County of~~ Gallatin Territory, ~~in the State of~~;
Susie Bull, who resides in the ~~County of~~ Indian Territory, ~~in the State of~~;
Frank Fahrney, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Missouri;
Emma Murphy, who resides in the County of Lapas, in the State of Missouri;
Emanuel Fahrney, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Missouri;
Charles Fikel, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Missouri;
Rosia Buzzard, who resides in the County of Newton, in the State of Missouri;

that the said Susan Fahrney died on or about the 5th day of November 1895, without a will; that he will make a perfect inventory of, and faithfully administer all the estate of the deceased, and pay the debts as far as the assets will extend and the law direct, and account for and pay all assets which shall come to his possession or knowledge.

J. R. McMahan

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 6th day of Feby A. D. 1896

R. M. Davis
Judge of Probate



617 R. & T. A. Kanis Stationery Co., Printers and Blank Book Manufacturers, 118 and 120 Olive Street, St. Louis. Class A

APPRAISEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.

STATE OF MISSOURI, County of Newton } ss. AFFIDAVIT OF APPRAISERS.

This is to Certify, that David Thum W. T. Doherty and F. M. Sears on their oath, say that they are not interested, nor of kin to any person interested in the estate of Susan Fahrney deceased, late of Newton County, Missouri, as heir or devisee, and that they will, to the best of their ability, view and appraise the goods, chattels and other personal property to them produced by J. R. McMahon Administrator of said Susan Fahrney deceased.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, at Neosho Mo this 11 day of February A. D. 1896

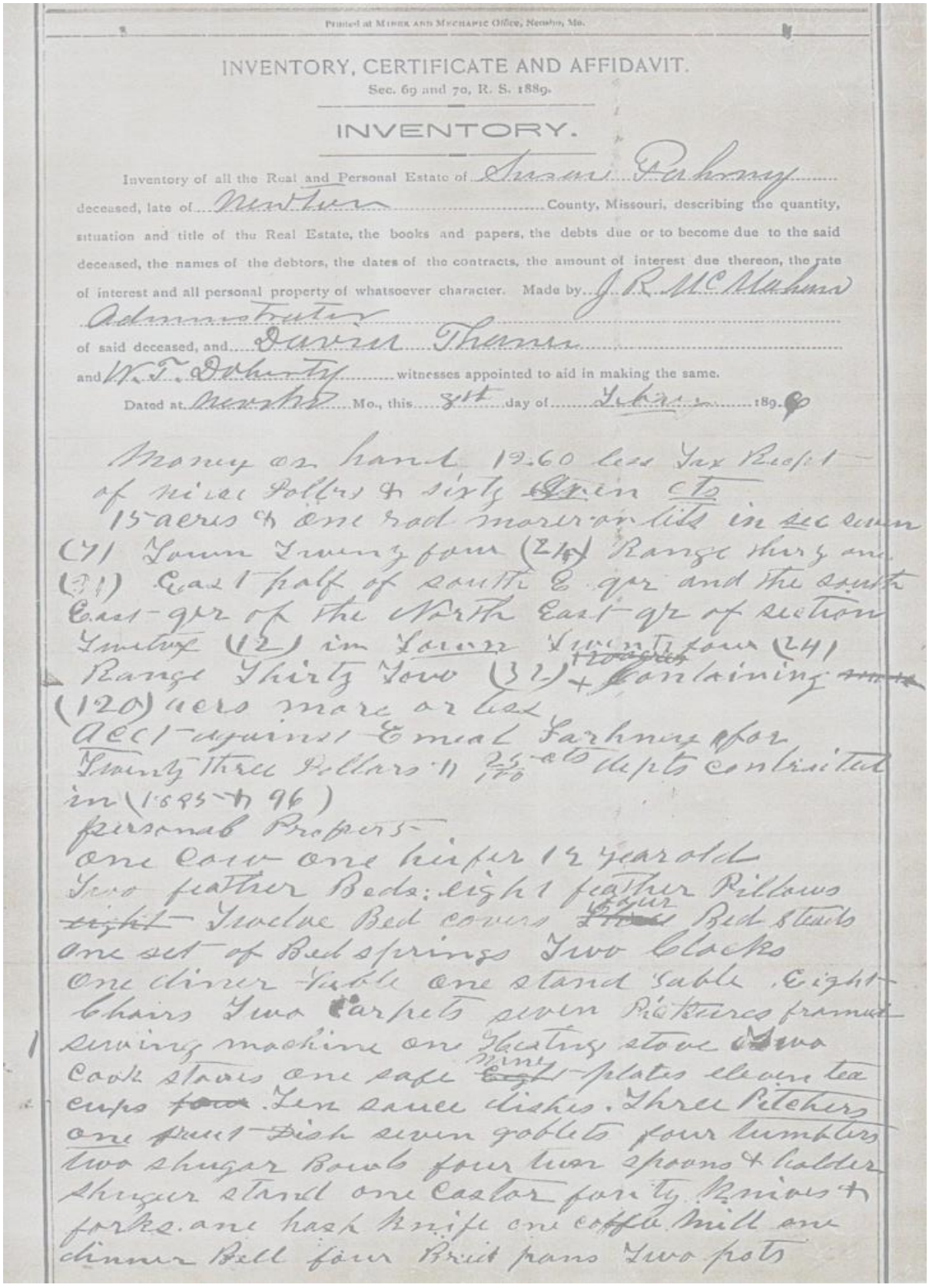
Isaac P. Coats

David Thum
W T Daugherty
F M Sears

APPRAISEMENT.

Appraisement of all and singular, the goods, chattels and other personal estate, of Susan Fahrney deceased, late of Newton County, Missouri, produced before the undersigned, David Thum W. T. Doherty and F. M. Sears Appraisers, duly qualified, this 8th day of February A. D. 1896, by J. R. McMahon, Administrator of said Susan Fahrney deceased.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.	APPRAISED VALUE. Dollars.	Cents.
one cow & heifer	26	00
Two Feather Beds & eight pillows	5	00
Bed Covers	3	00
4 Bed Steads & Springs	1	50
Two Clocks	1	50
One dinner Table & stand Table		50
eight Chairs	1	20
Two Carpets	3	00
seven picture frames	2	25
Sewing machine and Heating stove		50
Two Cooking stoves	10	
one safe nine plates eleven tea cups		25
Ten sauce dishes Three pitchers one fruit dish		50



Printed at Miner and Mechanic Office, Neosho, Mo.

INVENTORY, CERTIFICATE AND AFFIDAVIT.

Sec. 69 and 70, R. S. 1889.

INVENTORY.

Inventory of all the Real and Personal Estate of Susan Parkway deceased, late of Newton County, Missouri, describing the quantity, situation and title of the Real Estate, the books and papers, the debts due or to become due to the said deceased, the names of the debtors, the dates of the contracts, the amount of interest due thereon, the rate of interest and all personal property of whatsoever character. Made by J. R. McMahan Administrator of said deceased, and Darwin Thomas and W. F. Doherty witnesses appointed to aid in making the same.

Dated at Neosho Mo., this 3rd day of June 189[illegible]

Money on hand 12.60 less Tax Rec'd of nine Dollars & sixty Cts
15 acres & one rod more or less in sec seven (7) Town Twenty four (24) Range thirty one (31) East half of south E qr and the south East qr of the North East qr of section Twelve (12) in Town Twenty four (24) Range Thirty Tow (31) + containing (120) acres more or less
Acct against Email Fahrney for Twenty three Dollars 11 25/100 Cts Debts contracted in (1895-96)
Personal Property
one Cow one heifer 1 2 year old
Two feather Beds: eight feather Pillows eight Bed Quilts one set of Bed springs Two Clocks one dinner Table one stand Table Eight chairs Two carpets seven Pictures framed sewing machine one Heating stove Two Cook Stoves one safe Many plates eleven tea cups Ten sauce dishes. Three Pitchers one Meat Dish seven goblets four tumblers two sugar Bowls four tea spoons & table sugar stand one Castor forty Knives & forks. one hash Knife one coffee Mill one dinner Bell four Bread pans Two pots

595 Sec. 215, R. S. 1879—R. & T. A. Ennis Stationery Co., Printers and Blank Book Manufacturers, 118 and 120 Olive Street, St. Louis. Class C

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF Newton COUNTY, MISSOURI.

Now, at this day comes J. R. Mc. McMahan, administrator of the estate of Susan Fahrney, deceased

and presents his Accounts and Vouchers for final settlement and adjudication as follows, to-wit:

No. of Voucher		DEBIT Dollars	DEBIT Cts.	CREDIT Dollars	CREDIT Cts.
	He charges himself with the following amounts received from said estate				
	Collected notes & Shaw & Stagg	33	78		
	Sold wheat 1878	73	00		
	" Corn & Hay "	41	30		
	He charges himself with the following amounts paid out				
No 1	Wm Collins, threshing			2	40
2	W. B. Brock hauling wheat			1	00
3	L. Johnson, work			1	20
4	Joseph Hubbard, hauling wheat			1	00
5	J. T. Hughes, atty fee final settlement			3	00
6	T. W. Bruce, work on barn			2	00
7	John Winley & Co. Boards			19	00
8	Doyle & Thain, work,			5	07
~~9~~	~~J. R. Mc. McMahon, daughter~~				
9	James Robinson hunter			2	07
10	T. M. Sellers, work			2	50
11	J. Brauer work			2	30
12	Emma Fahrney work			41	90
13	J. T. Hubbard work on barn			10	80
14	C. E. Curtice publishing notice			4	00
15	J. T. Hubbard, Nails			2	80
16	Charley Ball work on barn			2	25
17	A. T. Fahrney, Tombstone			9	80
18	Taxes for 1877			11	01

JCF & Susan's two Famous Grandsons

As we saw in the 1870 Federal Census Report (page 190 above), JCF and his wife Susan placed high importance on the education of their eight children, as they hired a full-time teacher named Casper Rod to live with the family.

This in-house education by a professional teacher undoubtedly benefited the first generation of Fahrney children born in America. Nevertheless, the three sons of this first generation remained in their father's agrarian line of business throughout their lives. John Chris, Jr., was a farmer, Franklin Chris a farmer & carpenter and Emile Fred a farmer/miller. It is reasonable to presume that all eight children considered education of paramount importance and made certain that their offspring were provided the best available. My research, based on vital statistics and press cuttings, shows that the second and third generations of Fahrneys produced several high ranking military officers and a number of successful businessmen. But I will restrict myself in this book to shed some light on the two most famous grandchildren of the Patriarch, Johann Christian Fahrni and his wife Susanna.

The famous brothers were Paul Lanier Fahrney and Delmer Slater Fahrney, born to Franklin Chris Fahrney and Lillian Pugh. Franklin was born in 1860 during the civil war in Baxter Springs, and I did not find much about him with the exception of his involvement, as a teenager, in the "Frank, Pete and the Mules" gristmill saga (see page 189). The farmer Franklin and his wife Lillian produced eight children. The first two, Paul Lanier and Delmer Slater, achieved both significant success in their professional careers. Before providing a glimpse into their professional life, Paul and Delmer were also the ones who, later in their lives, started the genealogical research of the US Fahrney lines, which was resumed and finetuned later by their nephew Jack (page 177).

Paul Lanier Fahrney was born on 18 Jun.1897 in Oklahoma and was brought up on the farm of his parents in Grove, Craig County. The 1910 Federal Census shows that 13-year-old Paul was living in the family. A reconstruction of events show that he studied at Vinita High school, then he joined Oklahoma University where he graduated as a chemist. University records indicate that Paul was a member of the Alpha Chi chemical fraternity. At the age of 23, Paul obtained his first job with the American Bitumuls and Asphalt Co., a subsidiary of Standard Oil of California (SoCal). For the first two years, Paul worked as a chemist and research engineer, living in Portland, Oregon.

Subsequently, Paul Fahrney was transferred to the sales department, it is presumed at his own request. He soon had this great vision and saw the potential of asphalt in the country. Indeed, in the early 20th century asphalt-based paving of roads was relatively new, and Paul developed the right sales approach that gave an enormous impetus to the development of his company.

On 19 June 1926, Paul Lanier married Lois Morris in Alameda, California. He was 29 years old and she was 25. Lois was a graduate of the University of California and, as the couple did not have any children, Lois would often accompany Paul on his business trips helping him with the administration.

Paul travelled constantly and devoted his life almost entirely to the development of his asphalt product. A reconstruction of events shows he was successful and soon rewarded with his appointment as district manager of the salesforce, in 1929. Two years later, Paul was moved back from Baltimore to San Francisco and became general sales manager. In the years that followed, Paul Fahrney became Vice-President and later, in 1942, President of American Bitumuls and Asphalt Co., the world's largest producer of asphalt products. The press release on the following page, says Paul sparked American Bitumuls to pre-eminence.



PAUL LANIER FAHRNEY, '20BA

Published by:

SOONER MAGAZINE

University of Oklahoma

VOL.XX, August 1948.

Promotion for Fahrney

Paul L. Fahrney, '20ba, was recently elected vice-president of the Standard Oil Company of California. He was promoted to the position, which he has held almost four months, from general manager of operations in the marketing department. Fahrney has been with the company 28 years—since graduation from the University.

An active member of Sigma Nu Social Fraternity while on the campus, he also belonged to Alpha Chi Sigma, honorary chemical fraternity. A native of Grove, Fahrney graduated from Vinita High School and worked for the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph Company while a student at O.U. He now spends his leisure time playing golf and woodworking.

His career began in 1920 when he was successful in obtaining the position of research-sales engineer for Standard Oil of California. He held this position for nine years, and, after two years as district manager, he was promoted to the position of general sales manager of the American Bitumuls Company, a subsidary of Standard. In 1942, he became president of both the American and the International Bitumuls Company and, after one month as general manager of operations in the marketing department, he was promoted to the position of vice-president.

Mrs. Fahrney is a graduate of the University of California, and they have made their home in San Francisco.

Mr. Bitumuls...

Vice-President and Director Paul Fahrney sparked American Bitumuls to pre-eminence, later became Socal's top man in marketing



SEVERAL YEARS ago, guests at a mountain cabin in California observed that a foot bridge over a creek had been damaged by winter snows. One of the guests saw more: a lightning blasted fir tree. He quietly found tools, cut the tree to the required length, and floated it to the bridge site. Then the other guests joined the job and built a sturdy bridge.

The do-it-yourselfer was Paul Fahrney. The bridge symbolizes his career: he saw the need, planned the project, and started it in such a way as to attract the required help.

His 42-year career with Socal closed with his retirement on July 1. He has been a Vice-President for the past 14 years. But for the preceding 28 years he promoted asphalt, leading to the presidency of our American Bitumuls & Asphalt Company. Many state highway officials still call him "Mr. Bitumuls."

Here's why. In 1920 there weren't many asphalt roads, for the product was relatively unknown. But that year a young chemist graduated from the University of Oklahoma. Fahrney was the eldest of a family of four boys and four girls; he worked part time for Southwestern Bell Telephone from the 8th grade through college; and in 1920 he came to San Francisco to join Socal's Fuel Oil and Asphalt Department as a Research Chemist.

Eighteen months later he was sent to Portland as a Sales Engineer. With research background, he developed a straightforward, factual sales approach all his own. For the next 7 years, nobody traveled so constantly and worked so intensely. Fahrney had seen the need and planned well. In 1926, he married Lois Morris, who added her energy and enthusiasm to his.

In 1929, he was appointed District Manager of Ambit's Baltimore plant and sales force. Often, after a normal work day, the Fahrneys continued working, as Lois had studied typing in order to help him during work-trips.

Their life in Pullman cars and hotels increased in 1931, when Fahrney was moved to San Francisco as General Sales Manager of Ambit. As the company spread across the nation with refineries (now five) and marine terminals (now 15), the new manager was everywhere. (T. S. Petersen, recently retired Socal President, says today, "Since I first knew Paul Fahrney, 40 years ago in the Northwest, he has spent more time traveling to sell and supervise than any other employee. And he gets results.") The Fahrneys maintained two sets of luggage: one filled with light clothing for the South, and one with heavier clothes for northern trips. When each Ambit district manager took his vacation, Fahrney filled the position himself, thus acquiring first-hand knowledge of local problems and opportunities.

And what were the results? In 1942 he was elected President, and soon Ambit became *the world's largest marketer of asphalt products*. Fahrney had built another bridge, with the help of employees who now total 780. In the process, the salesman became the organizer, still setting a fast pace for his fellow workers. His approach was always direct. Cutting red tape, he got the job done quickly, and continued traveling frequently to do it.

In 1948 he was elected a Vice-President of Socal, where he has been contact officer for Ambit, Caloil, and Standard of British Columbia. These groups found in Fahrney what Ambit people had long known: a soft-spoken, unpretentious manner, friendliness, and unfailing thoughtfulness for individuals. Fahrney, loyal to his people and his organization, has the ability to inspire similar loyalty in others. He became Socal's top marketing man, and last September he was elected a Director.

Fahrney's hobbies include fishing, golf, barbecuing for the frequent gatherings of friends and neighbors, and color photography: travel movies. Yes, the Fahrneys' chief hobby is travel, and for months now his pocket has contained an itinerary for a tour of 67 nations to begin soon.

Upon return, he may resume another hobby: real estate ventures. If so, you may predict that he'll start alone, plan it with Lois, then enlist the help of co-workers as he did in building Ambit and that foot bridge.

EXCERPT FROM THE "OILER" - IN-HOUSE MAGAZINE FOR EMPLOYEES.

BULLETIN

Published Quarterly by

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

Volume XI JANUARY 1962 Number 5



PAUL L. FAHRNEY

Paul L. Fahrney, vice president, has been elected to the board of directors of Standard Oil Company of California. He joined the company in 1920 as an asphalt research chemist, later becoming president of American Bitumuls & Asphalt Company, a subsidiary. A vice president of the parent corporation since 1948, more recently he has been responsible for national marketing policies.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS
STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

R. G. FOLLIS	Chairman of the Board, Director
O. N. MILLER	President, Director
WILLIAM M. ALLEN	Director
HILLYER BROWN	Vice-President, Director
ASA V. CALL	Director
P. L. FAHRNEY	Vice-President, Director
T. I. LENZEN	Vice-President, Director
GAGE LUND	Vice President, Director
G. L. PARKHURST	Vice-President, Director
L. R. PETERSON	Vice-President, Director
W. H. BEEKHUIS	Vice-President
K. H. CRANDALL	Vice-President
W. W. DAVISON	Vice-President
J. T. HIGGINS	Vice-President
F. M. JAYNE	Vice-President
G. M. FOSTER	Secretary
H. D. ARMSTRONG	Treasurer
W. K. MINOR	Comptroller
J. P. BOWMAN	Assistant Secretary
H. L. SEVERANCE	Assistant Secretary
E. A. HANSEN	Assistant Secretary
J. S. TATE	Assistant Treasurer

From then onwards, in his role as President of American Bitumuls, Paul Fahrney often travelled to Vancouver, in Standard Oil of California-owned company airplanes, for the expansion of their business in Canada. Many other sea and air passenger manifests show Paul accompanied by his wife Lois with destinations such as Bermuda and Cuba which could suggest leisure trips.

It was remarkably evident that Paul Fahrney was a strong leader and, in 1948, in addition to his function as President of Bitumuls, he was also elected Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors of Standard Oil of California. Paul kept these positions for 14 years, until his retirement in 1962.

Press cuttings show that Paul Lanier owned different properties during his working life; a construction registry dated 1950 show that Paul and Lois had a house built in Woodlands Road, Kentfield. The Reading Landscape Magazine of the same year displays the Fahrney residence. Sunset Magazine dated August 1953 shows the property of P.L. Fahrney with native madrone trees that had grown through his redwood deck. Later, in 1955, Paul and Lois lived in the San Rafael Marina, near San Francisco.

To sum up his professional accomplishments in life, Paul Lanier Fahrney joined Standard Oil of California in 1920, after his graduation from Oklahoma University as a chemist. He worked for that same company for 43 years, until his retirement. If anything, his devotion and great contribution to the company led to his much honoured nomination to the top level of directorship of the holding company SoCal.

Soon after retirement, Paul and his wife Lois moved to Carmel Highlands in Monterey County, the exclusive and fashionable place where artists and other celebrities found inspiration for a peaceful life. In a farewell speech, Paul said he would now travel the world for his and his wife's pleasure.

In retrospect, Paul and Lois were often described as generous and kind to others. There is a press article reference that Paul and Lois had made donations to charitable causes for over one million dollars. On the personal side of their lives, Paul and Lois were married for 67 years. Paul Lanier Fahrney died on 8 March 1993, at the age of 96, and the couple's last address was in Carmel Highlands where they had lived for over 30 years. Lois died one year after her husband at the age of 93.

According to the Auke Visser's International Super Oil Tankers website, several Chevron VLCC vessels (subsidiary of Standard Oil of California) were commissioned in the name of their Vice President and member of the Board of Directors, Paul Lanier Fahrney, as can be seen hereafter.



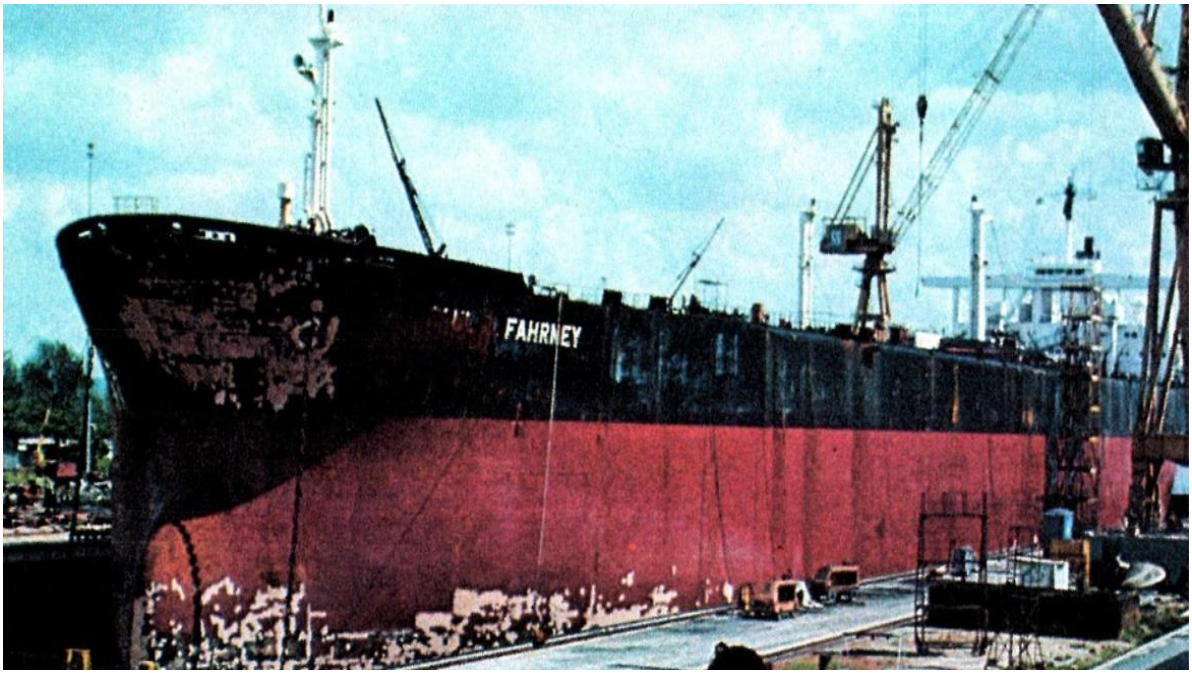
Liberian VLCC "Paul L. Fahrney" crude oil taker (263'853 DWT tons) above

Crude oil tanker "Paul L. Fahrney" IMO 7035987 (267'896 DWT) below





NAVIEARMATORI, Chevron shipping co. Paul L. Fahrni

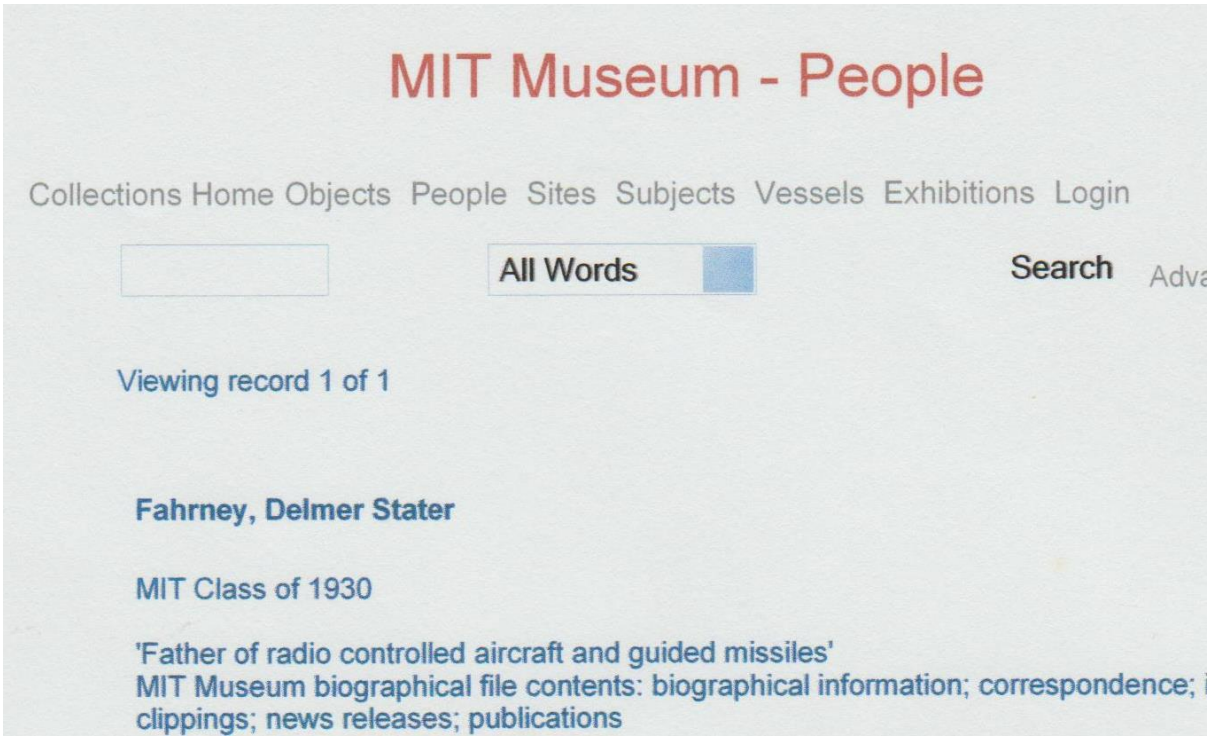


This Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) SS Paul Fahrney of Chevron Shipping was restored and overhauled in the Sembawang drydock shipyard of Singapore in 1972.

Delmer Slater Fahrney was born on 23 October 1898 in the Indian Territory, which later became Oklahoma. He was raised on the farm of his parents in Grove, Craig County, as shown in the 1910 Federal Census. In 1916, at the age of 18, Delmer Slater entered the Naval Academy, from where he graduated four years later in the '20 graduating class. In 1919, he also earned a Bachelor of Science at the Naval Academy. In 1924, Delmer was awarded his Wings at Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida, also known as the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

On 2 June 1925, Delmer married Agnes Witting Kelly in Hawaii. He was 27 and she was 20 years old. According to the Magna Charta Ancestry website, Agnes Witting Kelly was of noble birth and may claim descent from English Baron Henry de Bohun, the First Earl of Hereford. Delmer and Agnes brought four children to this world between 1926 and 1932, namely Dawn, Delmer Jr., Carol and Paula.

The 1930 Population Schedule shows the Fahrney family with their first three children living in Woburn, Middlesex, Massachusetts. As shown below, this is the period when Delmer earned his Master's in science and aeronautical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



A reconstruction of events in Delmer's career development shows that, in 1934, he was assigned to Curtiss-Wright Aeronautical Corp. as Inspector Naval Aircraft. In 1935, Delmer had the position of Aeronautical engineering duty officer and the following year, in 1936, he was promoted to Head of Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics target drones and guided missile development. An internal Navy publication of that time mentions:

Quote: Lieutenant Commander Delmer S. Fahrney was placed in charge of the unmanned airborne drones project on 20 July 1936. This program is destined to dominate the next many years of this Lieutenant Commander's auspicious Naval career. Under Fahrney's determined leadership, the development of remotely-controlled guidance systems will take quantum leaps in the decades to follow. Unquote.

Delmer S. Fahrney held this position for 14 years until he retired from Navy service in 1950. His foresight in planning for future generations of missiles earned him recognition as "the father of guided missiles'. In addition, Delmer was Commander of Naval Aircraft factory, Navy Yard, Philadelphia.

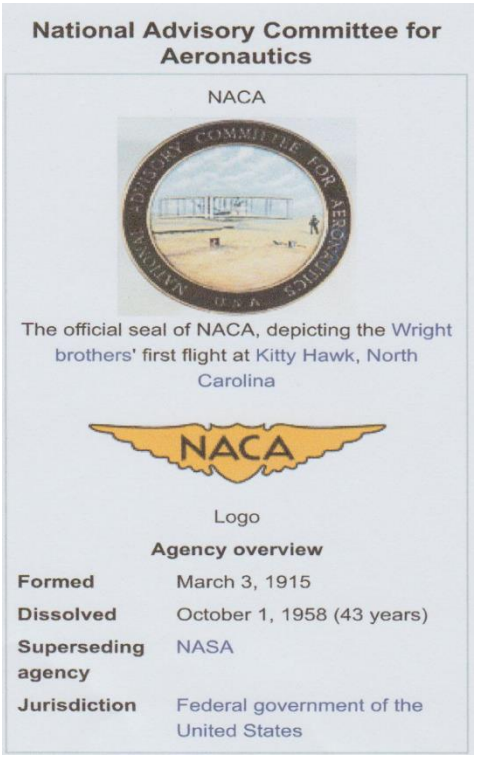
From 1948 to 1950, Delmer was First Commander of the Naval Air Missile Test Center at Point Mugu. Many years later, in 1996, the new Command Headquarters Building of the Naval Air Missile Test Center at Point Mugu was dedicated in the name of Delmer S. Fahrney.

Delmer was awarded the following distinctions during his life:
Navy Commendation Medal for work on guided missiles Bureau Aeronautical; Navy Commendation for radio control achievements US Navy; Legion of Merit; Gold star in lieu of second Legion of Merit for development of assault drone guided missiles. Delmer Fahrney is patent holder on aircraft guided missile developments.

Delmer Fahrney published two documents during his life, namely
a) The Birth of Guided Missiles, and b) The Genesis of the Cruise Missile.
A book was written in Delmer's honour, titled TDR-1, First Operational US Navy Drone.

From 1954 to 1958, Delmer acted as Naval Historian on guided missiles at the Aeronautical Navy Department.

During an unknown number of years, Admiral D. Fahrney was a member of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. This Agency became NASA as of 1958.



What the Government sources do not mention is that Delmer Slater Fahrney was on a mission to Switzerland for several months during 1944. We know he was housed in the American Embassy in Bern and, considering his background, Delmer's mission must have been very high level, dealing with geopolitical issues and strategies between the two countries.

In November of 1950, Rear Admiral Delmer Slater Fahrney retired from active duty and settle down in La Mesa, California, with his family. He was 52 years old and ready to start a new career in the private sector. In early 1951, Delmer joined Vimcar Corporation as V.P. Vimcar manufactured military equipment.

Admiral Fahrney Joins Vimcar

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 (AP)— Appointment of Rear Admiral Delmer S. Fahrney as vice president of the Vimcar Corporation, Los Angeles engineering concern, was announced today. Admiral Fahrney, a thirty-year Navy veteran and 1919 Annapolis graduate, last served as commander of the naval air missile test center, Point Mugu, Calif. He retired last November. Victor M. Carter, Vimcar president, said Admiral Fahrney will serve as a liaison officer between the company and the military services.

In addition to his Vimcar Co. Vice Presidency, Delmer Fahrney also worked with Coleman Engineering Company, a provider to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). Delmer acted as a consultant in Coleman's radio controlled aircraft and guided missiles department.

Delmer Fahrney became also a member of Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, which he joined soon after his retirement from the Navy, until his 75th birthday, in 1973. He acted as secretary to the Committee on Science and Arts. Delmer's credentials about aerial technology made such an impact on the Franklin Institute that it still bestows today a "Delmer S. Fahrney" Gold Medal on persons with High Achievements and Leadership in Science and Technology. Likewise, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from where he obtained his Masters degree in 1930, also confers a "Delmer S. Fahrney" award to their outstanding members.

Though Delmer's activities with Vimcar, Colemann and Franklin Institute must have been exhausting, this did not prevent him to further concentrate on ufology, a matter that had preoccupied him for decades. As mentioned earlier, Delmer had been a longstanding member of NACA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, where the phenomena of UFO had been discussed at great length at the request of members of Congress. As a former Navy Missiles Chief and also a Director of Naval Intelligence, Rear Admiral Fahrney had a long experience on this matter and became quite outspoken publicly on extra-terrestrial spaceships visiting our atmosphere from other planets.

The UFO awareness to the general public had started during WWII. But Navy pilots, ship captains and air controllers had been reporting spaceship sightings and close encounters for quite some time before, of which Delmer Fahrney was well aware. There was also Admiral Richard Byrd's 1928 & 1934 expeditions to Antarctica, which caught the headlines with much speculation about extra-terrestrial flying saucers in the South Pole. There can be no doubt that Admiral Fahrney and Admiral Byrd knew each other well from the Naval Academy, and they got closer with Byrd's new exploration to Antarctica, in 1939. This third exploration had the official backing of the American government and, as Director of Naval Intelligence, Delmer Fahrney must have been closely involved with this expedition.

Six years later, we have the 1946 top secret American expedition to Antarctica, codenamed "Operation Highjump". This more-than-four-thousand-men Naval operation to the South Pole had the support of thirteen ships, including an Icebreaker, a destroyer, an aircraft-carrier, a submarine, a tanker and over twenty airplanes and helicopters. The military mission was under the command of President Truman's Defence Secretary, J. Forrestal, and was led by Admiral Richard Byrd. Although a high amount of military hardware was involved, the objectives of the expedition were shrouded in secrecy. Admiral Byrd's claim was that the mission was for scientific research, but the media interpreted that it was an attempt by the US to claim the South Pole as US territory. Obviously only those with top secret clearance status would know of the mission's true objectives, and there is no doubt that Admiral Delmer Fahrney knew of the facts. Without embarking into a conspiracy theory, it is interesting that the expedition was planned to last for about six to eight months, but this massive naval operation unexpectedly came to a faltering end after only two months, without a credible explanation by the authorities. There are many claims today, by high ranking officials that the expedition had come under attack from flying saucers, causing heavy losses. This information was suppressed by the authorities; the government's nondisclosure policy still exists today.

The following year, in July 1947, occurred the well documented alien spacecraft crash in Roswell, New Mexico. Allegedly, the US AirForce secretly recuperated the UFO craft and handed it to the US Military Industrial complex for reverse engineering. Again, allegedly, this led directly to the invention of the integrated circuit chip, laser and fibre optics technologies, and to anti-gravity propulsion.

With the 1946 Antarctic expedition and the 1947 Roswell crash, the flying saucers phenomena entered popular consciousness. But the authorities around the world have maintained concealment to this day. Over the many years, Rear Admiral Fahrney must have had access to wide and unofficial sources of information on the extra-terrestrial question that led him to the staunch conviction that extra-terrestrial beings were real and that they were a threat to Earth. Just to mention two Naval Academy classmates of Delmer Fahrney who also believed that the UFO were genuine were CIA Director Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter and Marine Major Donald Keyhoe. Delmer made several public announcements on UFO as a Rear Admiral as shown below.



"Unidentified Flying Objects are entering our atmosphere at very high speeds and obviously under intelligent control. We must solve this riddle without delay." —
Rear Admiral Delmar Fahrney, USNR

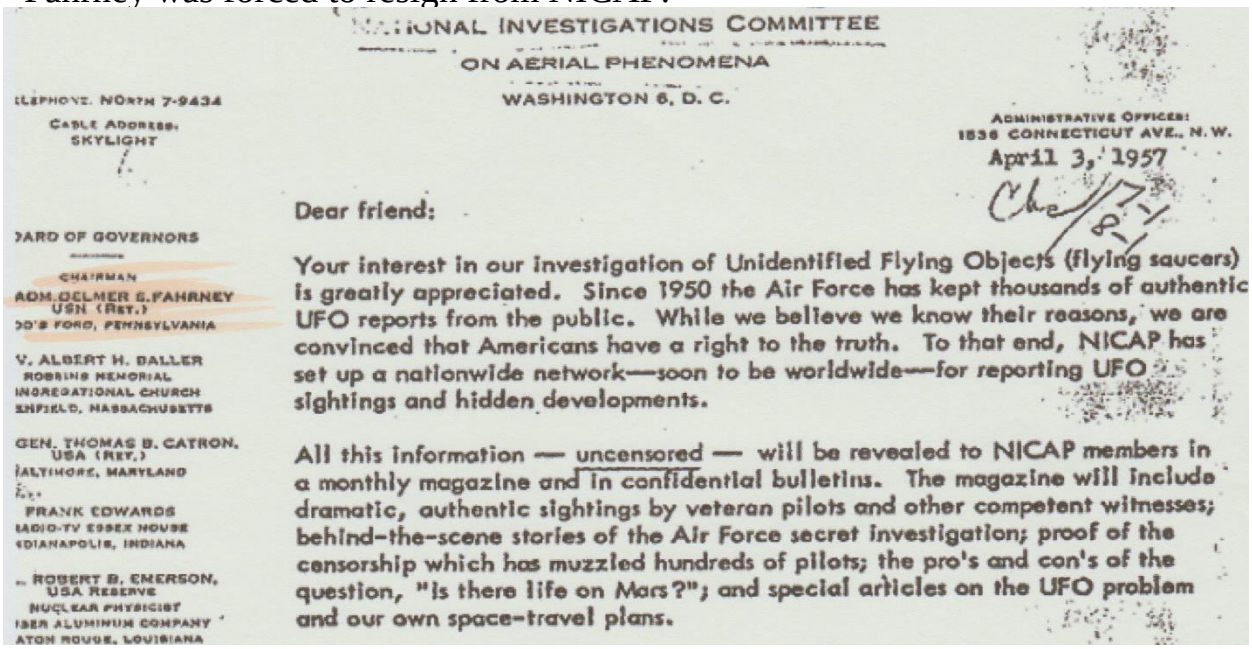


"Reliable reports indicate there are objects coming into our atmosphere at very high speeds and controlled by thinking intelligences."

Navy Admiral Delmar Fahrney public statement, 1950

But those believing that extra-terrestrial saucers were real, notably the US Navy and the CIA, experienced a strong opposition from the Air Force which denied the existence of UFO. My digging in the Naval Academy Nimitz Library and other Archives collections and books revealed treasures of information on the infighting between the Air Force and the Navy during that time. The salient fact of this post-war period was President Truman's wish to implement a unification of the Department of National Defence. And there was fear, then, that this could lead to the integration of the Navy under the control of the Air Force. Several books written by insiders about this period indicate that the Navy had been subject to many disagreements with the Air Force, but it was obvious that the Air Force benefited from the backing of the Pentagon. The Pentagon's backing of the Air Force was the tipping point that finally gave reason to the UFO deniers. Like so many other scholars, Rear Admiral Fahrney did not attempt to mediate the dispute and was determined to confront the Air Force and the National Security elite on the alien controversy. Scanning the numerous press articles, we can see that Delmer Fahrney went public on a number of occasions, accusing the Air Force of hiding the truth to the public, and expressing his opinion that there should be disclosure on UFO matters.

Retired-Rear Admiral Delmer S. Fahrney had become chairman of the Board of Directors of NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena). Delmer's press conference on UFO, of May 1957, made national news with the words below, blatantly attacking the Air Force. Following which, Delmer Slater Fahrney was forced to resign from NICAP.



NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

TELEPHONE. NORTH 7-9434
CABLE ADDRESS: SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W.

April 3, 1957

Dear friend:

Your interest in our investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects (flying saucers) is greatly appreciated. Since 1950 the Air Force has kept thousands of authentic UFO reports from the public. While we believe we know their reasons, we are convinced that Americans have a right to the truth. To that end, NICAP has set up a nationwide network—soon to be worldwide—for reporting UFO sightings and hidden developments.

All this information — uncensored — will be revealed to NICAP members in a monthly magazine and in confidential bulletins. The magazine will include dramatic, authentic sightings by veteran pilots and other competent witnesses; behind-the-scene stories of the Air Force secret investigation; proof of the censorship which has muzzled hundreds of pilots; the pro's and con's of the question, "Is there life on Mars?"; and special articles on the UFO problem and our own space-travel plans.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

CHAIRMAN
ADM. DELMER S. FAHRNEY
USN (RET.)
...O'S FORD, PENNSYLVANIA

...V. ALBERT H. BALLER
ROBBINS MEMORIAL
...NGREGATIONAL CHURCH
...NFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

GEN. THOMAS B. CATRON,
USA (RET.)
...ALTIMORE, MARYLAND

...FRANK EDWARDS
...ADIO-TV ESSEX HOUSE
...NDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

... ROBERT B. EMERSON,
USA RESERVE
NUCLEAR PHYSICIST
...SER ALUMINUM COMPANY
...ATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA



CHRONICLE 1 6 1965

Navy Rear Adm. (Ret.) Delmer Stater Fahrney, who pioneered in radio-controlled aircraft and guided missiles, is seen with his sister-in-law, Mrs. M. C. Fahrney, in the cool artistically landscaped garden of Mr. and Mrs. Fahrney's home. [illegible] Perry.

II to further the program. Adm. Fahrney told of a 100-foot-long 19-foot diameter rocket which went 500 miles in orbit carrying a load of 2,000 pounds of instrumentation. It formed the basis on which research and experiments were made.

He said that contracts were let to the California Institute of Technology for mass ratio study and orbit study and another with Aerojet for the development of liquid hydrogen. When the relay satellite project was approved other contracts were made for engineering and construction.

Delmer Slater Fahrney received the press in his home in 1965 in La Mesa, California. The Historical Images website shows some pictures of the impressive Fahrney house and garden.

This function must have been a private one, but given his notoriety from the Navy, Delmer could not help but talk about his achievements on the target drone and guided missile development.

Delmer Slater Fahrney was 67 years old, and received the press in the presence of his sister in law, Mrs M.C.Fahrney, in his cool artistically landscaped garden in La Mesa, according to the Historical Images website. Delmer's wife, Agnes, was missing due to illness; she would die four years later, in 1969.



One year after the death of his wife Agnes, Delmer marries Helen Patricia Sheehan, the widow of Navy pilot Lt Commander Samuel Arthur who got killed in action. Delmer and Samuel were best friends back from the Naval Academy 45 years earlier. Helen wrote a picture book “A young WWII Widow”.



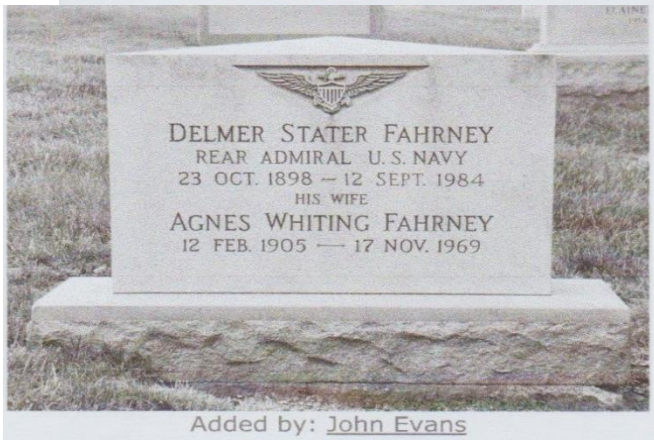
RADM Delmer Stater Fahrney

Birth: Oct. 23, 1898
Oklahoma, USA
Death: Sep. 12, 1984
La Mesa
San Diego County
California, USA

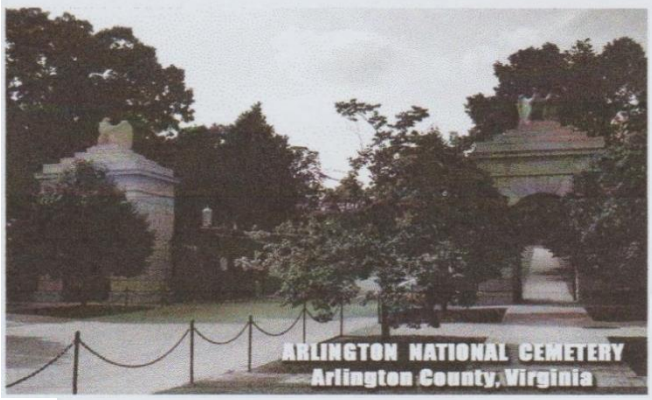
Family links:
Spouse:
Agnes W Fahrney (1905 - 1969)

Note: US NAVY, Date interred: 10/15/1984

Burial:
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington
Arlington County
Virginia, USA
Plot: Section 8 Site 121-RH



Added by: John Evans



Delmer Stater Fahrney

Word has been received of the Sept. 12 death of retired Rear Adm. Delmer Stater Fahrney, 86, in La Mesa, Calif.

Adm. Fahrney, who headed the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics target drone and guided missile development during the early portion of the missile age, lived in Westtown, and later Chadds Ford, prior to his retirement in 1973 from the Franklin Institute, Philadlephia, where he worked after his Navy service.

Born in the Indian Territory, which later became Oklahoma, he was a 1920 graduate of the Naval Academy. He received his wings at Pensacola, Fla., in 1924.

Except for a year of duty in the South Pacific during World War II, Adm. Fahrney headed the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics target drone and guided missile developments from 1936 to 1950. The first flight in the country of a full-scale airplane under radio control without a pilot aboard, and the first successful test in the world of an air-to-surface guided missile using visual guidance took place during that period.

Adm. Fahrney was awarded the Secretary of the Navy Commendation Medal and Legion of Merit with a gold star.

He was the first commander of the Naval Air Missile Test Center at Point Mugu, assigned in 1948. He remained in that post until he retired from Navy service in 1950.

Adm. Fahrney is survived by his widow, Helen Arthur Fahrney; two daughters, Dawn Fahrney Knotts of Seattle, Wash., and Carol Fahrney of La Mesa; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services for Adm. Fahrney were held in Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

Johann Christian Fahrni - Fahrney
~ 6/13 Oct.1816 in Gwatt, bei Thun, canton Bern, Switzerland.
p. Miller Lauperswil, cant.Bern & Miller & Farmer in USA
Johann Christian arrived New York on SS Oneida on 23 Sep.1845 and immigrated to Ohio State on 9 Oct.1845.
T. 7 Feb.1881 in Neosho Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

1) Christina Kneubuhl
oo 15 May 1840 in Eriz
2) Suzanna Hophfinger
~ 4 Feb.1822 Baden-Baden in Germany
Suzanna immigrated to Ohio State on 26th Aug.1843.
oo 22 Oct.1848 in New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas C. OH
T. 4 Nov.1895 Neosho

Christian & Suzanna Scherz

see section 9 A, New Philadelphia, Ohio, JCF Fahrney Lines

Peter Fahrni-Fahrny Maria Weber
~ 12/28 Mar.1830 in Unterlangenegg, dist of Schwarzenegg ~ 28 Jul.1832 Switz
Maria immigrated to USA in 1849
Peter immigrated to USA on 5 July 1852
p. Grocer & Businessman **oo** 1858 in New Philadelphia, OH
Peter was the founder of a cigar company in New Philadelphia
T. 13 Mar.1916 in New Philadelphia OH **T.** 20 Mar.1920 in New Philadelphia OH

Christian Fahrni & Magdalena Kneubuhl

Alice Maria Fahrni was most probably the daughter of Friedrich Fahrni

Friedrich Fahrni Maria Schneiter
~ 1/14 Apr.1833 in Unterlangenegg, dist. of Schwarzenegg ~ 28 Feb.1836 Spiez
oo 22 Jul.1859 Spiez
r. Unterlang. & Spiez
p.Fuhrmann/Transporter **T.** 30 May 1887
T.11 Sep.1904 Zweisimmen.

Johannes Fahrni **Anna Thomann**
~ 7/21 Mar.1841 in Unterlangenegg, Schwarzenegg distr. canton Bern, Switzerl ~ 20/29 Nov.1835 in Spiez, canton Bern
r. Unterlangenegg & Zweisimmen
oo 3 Feb.1870 Zweisimmen BE
p. Schreiner/Fuhrmann, carpenter, transporter
T. 14 Mar.1914 in Zweisimmen (accident in Saanen) **T.** 5 Jun.1914 in Zweisimmen

New Philadelphia, Ohio, Peter Fahrni-Weber adoptions
(First child, Alice, adopted in Switzerland & four others in USA)

Peter & Maria Weber

Alice Maria Fahrni Albert W. Reiser
~ 10 Dec.1857, cant. Bern, Switzerland ~ 5 Dec.1862 in New Philadelphia OH
oo 1887, Ohio
T.18 May 1933 Ohio T.4 Sep.1939 Ohio

Lena Keiser Fahrni Lena was taking care
~ 1864 Ohio, T. 1920--> of Peter/Mary

Clara Schurch. Fahrni John Holzwarth
~ 1868 Ohio T.1944 ~ 1868 T.1932

Jessie Fahrni ~ 1878 Ohio T. 1881

Emma Low.Fahrni Albert F. Torgler
~ 1880 T.1942 ~ 1881 T.1962

Friedrich Fahrni US Lines

Friedrich & Maria Schneiter

Maria Fahrni John Stalder
~ 10 Jan.1862 Spiez,
Emigrated to New Philadelphia OH in 1883
T. 1920 --> USA

Friedrich P. Fahrni Rosetta Wuthrich
~ 10 Apr.1864 Spiez ~ 16 Nov.1866 Hutwill
Emigrated to New Phil.OH.on 3 May 1884
T. 6 Mar.1928 Ohio **T.** 25 Apr.1938 Ohio

Christian Fahrni **Emigrated to New Phil. on 12 May 1889**
~ 15 Oct.1866 Spiez
T. 1920 --> USA

Gottfried Fahrni Maria Ueltschi
~ 8 Aug.1871 Zweisi. ~ 4 Mar.1874
p. Fuhrmann oo 7 Jan.1905 Zweisimmen
T. 9 May 1910 Zweis. oo 1912 Jacob Knutti
Maria & children moved to Daerstetten

Rosina Fahrni Mr ...Lechter
~ 5 Aug.1875 Zweis.
Emigrated to New Phil.OH, in 1894
T. 1920 --> USA

see section 9 C, Swiss Fahrni lines

New Philadelphia, Ohio, Peter Fahrni-Weber adoptions

(First child Alice adopted in Switzerland & four others in USA)

(Alice Maria Fahrni was most probably the daughter of Friedrich Fahrni, Peter's younger brother)

Peter & Maria Weber

Alice Maria Fahrni Albert W. Reiser
~ 10 Dec.1857, cant. Bern, Switzerland T.18 May 1933 Ohio
~ 5 Dec.1862 in New Philadelphia OH oo 1887, Ohio T.4 Sep.1939 Ohio

Lena Keiser Fahrni
~ 1864 Ohio T. 1910 -->

Clara Scher. Fahrni John Holzwarth
~ 1868 Ohio T.1944 ~ 1868 T. 1932

Emma Low. Fahrni Albert F. Torgler
~ 1880 T.1942 ~ 1881 T.1962

Jessie Fahrni ~ 1878 Ohio T. 1881

Alice Maria Fahrni & Albert Reiser

Anna Marie Reiser Eugene Schumaker
~ 24 Apr.1890, Ohio ~ 1887
T. 1976 T. 1940

Carl F. Reiser Hazel Swinderman
~ 26 Jan.1894, Ohio
T. 1923

Eugene A. Reiser Dorothy Milar
~ 5 Dec.1896, Ohio ~ 1896
T. 1974 T. 1980

George A. Reiser Elizabeth Stratton
~ 1 Jan.1900, Ohio ~ 1895
T. 1979 T. 1962

Friedrich Fahrni-Schneiter US Line

Friedrich & Maria Schneiter

Maria Fahrni John Stalder
~ 10 Jan.1862 Spiez,
Emigrated to New Phil. OH in 1883
T. 1920 --> USA

Friedrich P. Fahrni Rosetta Wuthrich
~ 10 Apr.1864 Spiez ~ 16 Nov.1866 Hutwill
Emigrated to New Phil.OH on 3 May 1884
T.6 Mar.1928, Ohio T. 25 Apr.1938 Ohio

Christian Fahrni
~ 15 Oct.1866 Spiez
Emigrated to New Phil.OH on 12 May 1889
T. 1920 --> USA

Gottfried Fahrni Maria Ueltschi
~ 8 Aug.1871 Zweisi. ~ 4 Mar.1874
p. Fuhrmann **oo** 7 Jan.1905 Zweisimmen
T. 9 May 1910 Zweisimmen, canton Bern.

Rosina Fahrni Mr …. Lechter
~ 5 Aug.1875 Zweisimmen
Emigrated to New Phil.OH in 1894
T. 1916 --> USA

Friedrich & Rosetta Wuthrich

Peter Fred. Fahrni Enlisted in WW1
~15 Feb.1899 Ohio
T. 8 Sep.1945

Ida R. Fahrni ~ 1901 Ohio USA

Frederick C. Fahrni ~ .. 1903 Ohio USA

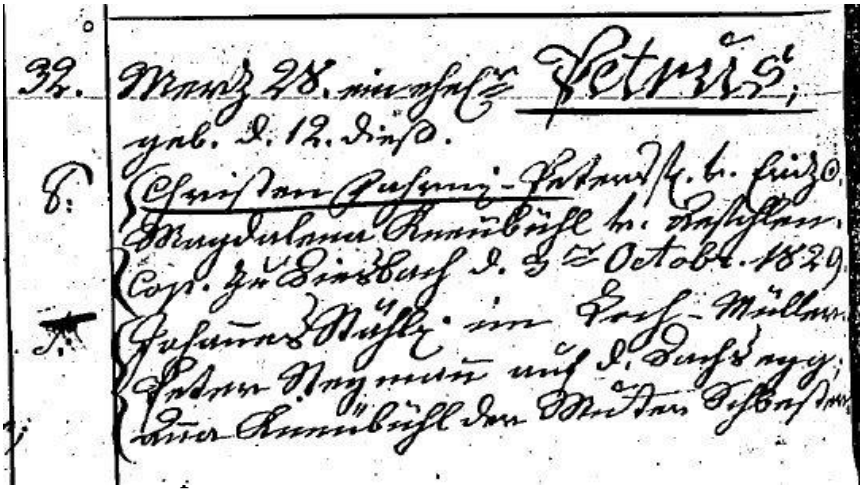
Gottfried & M.Ueltsch

Fritz Fahrni **Emigrated to USA**
~ 9 Oct.1906 Zweisimmen

Generation 9B, Peter Fahrni line

Peter (Petrus) Fahrni was the first child born to the Christian Fahrni - Magdalena Kneubuhl family. He was also the half-brother of Johann Christian Fahrni-Fahrney who immigrated to the State of Ohio in 1845. Peter was born on the 12th March in Unterlangenegg and baptized on the 28th March 1830 in the reformed district church of Schwazenegg, canton Bern (K8Sch58).

Peter's godfather was Johannes Stahli, the husband of his aunt Elsbeth Fahrni. And his godmother was Anna Kneubuhl, the sister of his mother.
Peter was only 11 years old when his father died in 1841, and barely 15 when his mother passed away in 1845. Peter had a stepfather as of 1844 when his mother remarried.



Baptism of Peter Fahrni on 28 March 1830.

According to his own account, as reported by the New Philadelphia press much later, in the 1880s, Peter's early life story is as follows:

Quote:

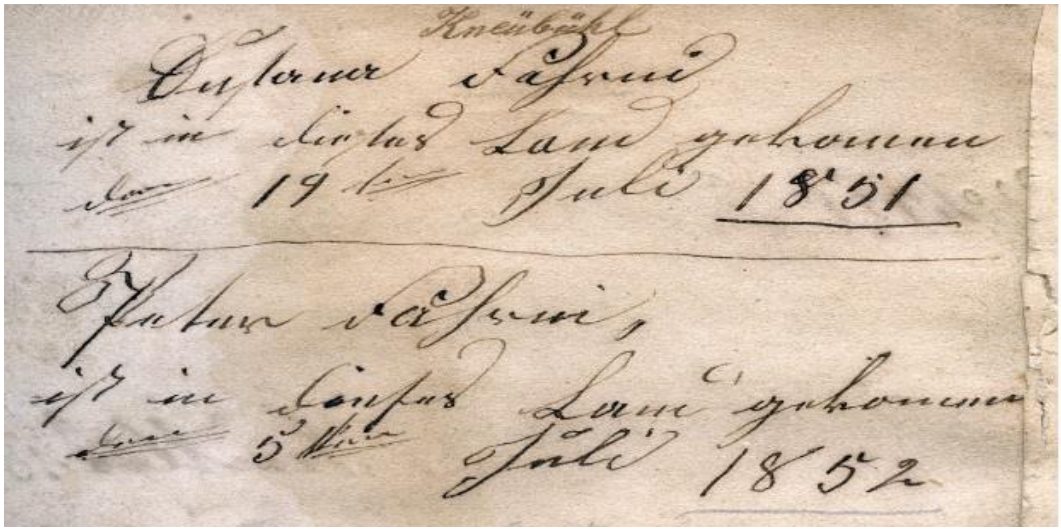
My father Christian Fahrni was a cabinet maker in canton Bern, Switzerland. In 1841, at the age of 50, he fell to his death from a scaffolding while doing timber-work on a house in Thun. My mother Magdalena, born Kneubuhl, died in 1845 and then I quit school to face the battle of life by myself. Eager to adapt to some paying vocation, I began to learn the trade of cigar maker which I performed for seven years in Switzerland until 1852. My half-brother, Johann Christian, was already living in America and he asked me to join him in New Philadelphia, state of Ohio. I therefore decided to leave my home and friends in the Alpine country and came to the west on a sailing vessel. The voyage lasted 34 days and I reached New Philadelphia in 1852. Unquote.

Peter Fahrni was 22 years old when he embarked for the USA to join his half-brother JCF. He had left behind his two brothers, Friedrich (19) and Johannes (11). It is most certain that before leaving Switzerland, Peter, with the guidance of JCF (the legal guardian), had made the necessary notary arrangements for the respective distribution of inheritance money to his two younger brothers as soon as they attained their majority (see pages 142 & 143). At 22, Peter was already in possession of his part of the inheritance as per the distribution of assets document (Thun B 172/640-647), dated 6 Feb.1845 (see generation 8).

No Swiss passport application in the name of Peter Fahrni was found in the archives of Bern, nor was it possible to locate any ship's embarkation or arrival passenger list showing the name of our ancestor. In his own words to the press, Peter states that he immigrated to the USA in 1852, a fact that is corroborated by Johann Christian, his half-brother, in his Wanderbuch annotations indicating Peter's arrival date as 5 July 1852. We could not trace any written evidence of Peter marrying Maria Weber in 1858 either, which was probably due to the fact that church records got lost. According to Peter's words and to vital statistics, Maria was born in Switzerland on 28 July 1832 and came to America in 1849.

We must, therefore, admit ignorance on Peter's whereabouts during his first years in New Philadelphia, with the exception of his own saying that he was employed as a cigar maker for two years by a Mr. William Rickerts. Peter also confirms that after his wedding in 1858, he started his own cigar business and later added some lines of groceries. Without speculating on probabilities, it would be quite logical to assume that, upon arrival in the state of Ohio, Peter had joined and lived for a while with his half-brother, Johann Christian, in Jefferson Township. Maybe this is the reason he remained undetected.

After residing for about eight years in America, the Peter Fahrni-Weber family finally appears officially in the 1860 Federal Census of New Philadelphia, OH. (see page 227). Their home was in Goshen Township. The age of Peter and of his wife are correct on the census, but Peter's name is spelled Forney which must however be considered as an acceptable misspelling. Peter's birthplace as Germany, instead of Switzerland, did first put some doubt on the genuineness of his real identity. But a certainty of identity was later restored, with the many other documents available of the Peter Fahrni-Weber family.



Above is a page of Johann Christian Fahrney's travel book "Wanderbuch" showing the arrival to Ohio of Suzanne Fahrni-Kneubuhl, his sister, on 19 July 1851. The other arrival to New Philadelphia was that of Peter Fahrni, his half-brother, on 5th July of 1852.

The 1860 United States Federal Census shows two Elizabeth, aged 3 and 20. The three-year old Elizabeth could well be our Alice Maria Fahrni, born in 1857, in Switzerland and wrongly named by the census takers. See my analysis of this matter on the next page.

Peter FAHRNY

B: 12 Mar 1830 in Canton, Bern, Switzerland
D: 13 Mar 1916 in New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas, Ohio, USA

Maria Mary Weber DAHLER B: 28 Jun 1832 in Switzerland

1860 United States Federal Census about Peter Forney

Name:	**Peter Forney**
Age in 1860:	30
Birth Year:	abt 1830
Birthplace:	Germany
Home in 1860:	Goshen, Tuscarawas, Ohio
Gender:	Male
Post Office:	New Philadelphia
Value of real estate:	View image

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Peter Forney	30
	Mary Forney	29
	Elizabeth Forney	3
	Elizabeth Forney	20

Who was Alice Maria Fahrni

There exist conflicting stories about the real ancestry of Alice Fahrni, the first adopted child of Peter Fahrni and Maria Weber. Speculations can be found on public family trees presented by descendants of Alice, claiming that she was the daughter of Peter Fahrni and Maria Weber. Other speculations claim that Alice was the descendant of one of Maria Weber's three sisters.

The first speculation that Alice was the daughter of Peter and Maria Weber is certainly wrong; numerous data and media articles clearly state that the Peter and Maria couple had never had children of their own. Why should they have lied? The other claim that Alice was the daughter of one of Maria's three Weber siblings cannot be possible. Indeed, Maria Weber and her three sisters immigrated to the USA in 1849, whereas Alice was born eight years later in Switzerland. There is no doubt in my mind that Alice was a real Fahrni, in flesh and blood, and my assumptions are, I believe, clear. From the five children adopted by Peter and Maria, only Alice, their first adoptive child, was to accompany Peter on his trips to Switzerland. As we know, Peter was very close to his two brothers, Friedrich and Johannes, who had remained behind in Switzerland. We have evidence of five trips to the Alpine country by Peter, so why did he take his adopted daughter Alice along to Switzerland? It would make sense to assume that he brought Alice Maria along to meet with her real Fahrni father in Spiez, and later in Zweisimmen. And her father can only be Friedrich Fahrni, Peter's brother. By a stretch of the imagination, it could well be that in 1857, 24-year-old Friedrich had produced an out-of-wedlock daughter, named Alice Maria, with a woman who may have died at child birth. Before Friedrich married M. Schneiter, in 1859, he probably asked his brother Peter to adopt his daughter Alice and take her to America. Hence, my deduction that the three-year-old Elizabeth appearing on the 1960 Federal Census report was in fact Alice, the daughter of Friedrich.

There are other compelling indications that Alice was a blood relative of Peter, which will be discussed later. For now, Alice Fahrni and her husband Albert Reiser inherited Peter Fahrni's business in 1905. Furthermore, the Probate Records and inheritance distribution of asset are in favour of Alice and of the four children of Friedrich. Four of Friedrich's children left Switzerland as teenagers to join their uncle Peter Fahrni-Weber in New Philadelphia. Therefore it is almost certain that the four children of Friedrich were siblings of Alice.

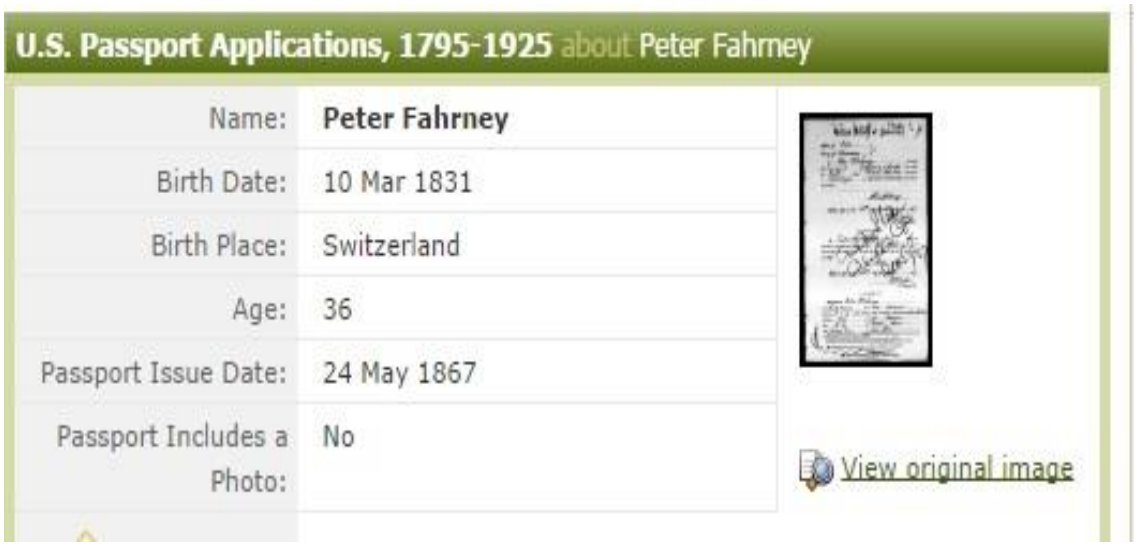
From his arrival in America in 1845 until 1853, Peter Fahrni's half-brother, Johann Christian Fahrni, was a farmer in Jefferson township, south of New Philadelphia, OH. As per deep rooted tradition of the immigrant community, JCF had arranged for some family members to immigrate to the USA. His sister Susanna came first in July 1851, followed by his half-brother Peter one year later. Upon their arrival in New Philadelphia, both Susanna and Peter were obviously accommodated in the farm of JCF and his wife and three children. It is not known for how long Susanna and Peter lived on JCF's farm in Jefferson township; it was certainly only until they found their own way to make a new life in America.

It is unfortunate that no evidence was found about the interactions between Johann Christian and his sister Susanna and his half-brother Peter, after settling down in Ohio. I would have expected to find some baptismal records of JCF's children, as Peter and/or Susanna should most likely have been godparents to JCF's young children. Baptisms are usually registered in the church books where the names of the godfather and godmother are mentioned. It would make sense that JCF's sister and half-brother would have attended these many baptisms in a godfather or godmother capacity. Peter and Maria Fahrni were Swiss protestants and had joined the First Reformed church in New Philadelphia, which now belongs to the First United Methodist Church. Unfortunately, it was impossible to identify where JCF's first children were baptized. And we know that some churches had moved from places to places, and records could probably not be preserved in line with the people and church movements. The only possible ongoing family relationship evidence we may have between JCF and Peter is an inheritance record, allocating some money to his nephew, John Christian Fahrney Jr., JCF's first son. This fact would lead to assume that Peter was the godfather of JCF' first son.

The 1860 Federal Census, which is eight years after his arrival in America, shows Peter Fahrney and his wife residing in Goshen Township, which is on the outskirts of New Philadelphia. Peter was not a farmer/miller like his half-brother, but a cigar maker, and he had moved closer to the town of New Philadelphia to find his way in the cigar making business.

There is no doubt that JCF had written to his half-brother Peter in Switzerland, inviting him to come to America, with the argument there were a great number of cigar manufacturers in Ohio. In fact, the Cigar History Museum of the USA mentions that by the end of the 19th century the USA had over 250,000 cigar factories. The factories were categorized as: Large with over 100 rollers, or Small with less than 100 rollers. It so happened that much of US cigar leaf was grown in Ohio State, which had about 1,000 cigar manufacturers at that time.

As we do not have many family sources about Peter Fahrni's life in America, we have to rely on the many press articles covering the life of Peter as a person, his business and his family. Several media reported that Peter had worked for the William Rickerts Cigar Factory, in New Philadelphia, from his arrival in 1852 and several years thereafter. In the year 1858, Peter started his own cigar factory; sometime later he added other lines of products to his business.



Fifteen years had passed since Peter Fahrni/Fahrney arrived in the USA; his cigar business in New Philadelphia seemed to have been well on its way to success. And it looks like it was time for Peter to make a little break to pay a visit to his two brothers, Friedrich and Johannes, in Zweisimmen, Switzerland. To this end, he applied for a passport in May,1867; sometime later, Peter embarked for his country of birth. His departure details to Switzerland could not be found, but the passenger list on the following page shows his return on 8 October 1867 with SS Saxonia.

Name:	**Peter Fahrne**
Arrival Date:	8 Oct 1867
Birth Date:	abt 1830
Age:	37
Gender:	Male
Ethnicity/ Nationality:	Swiss
Place of Origin:	Switzerland
Port of Departure:	Hamburg, Germany and Southampton, England
Destination:	United States of America
Port of Arrival:	New York, New York
Ship Name:	Saxonia

Below is the 1870 Federal Census, showing Peter and his wife, Mary, and their adopted daughter Alice Fahrni. Peter is a grocer and is already worth $8'000.- in Personal and Real Estate Values, after 18 years in the new country.



Peter Fahrney
in the 1870 United States Federal Census

VIEW

View blank form
Add alternate information
Report issue

Name:	Peter Fahrney
Age in 1870:	40
Birth Year:	abt 1830
Birthplace:	Switzerland
Dwelling Number:	148
Home in 1870:	New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas, Ohio
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Occupation:	Grocer
Father of Foreign Birth:	Y
Mother of Foreign Birth:	Y
Male Citizen Over 21:	Y
Personal Estate Value:	3000
Real Estate Value:	5000

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Peter Fahrney	40
	Mary Fahrney	39
	Alice Fahrney	13

By 1875, Peter Fahrni had established himself as a respectable businessman among the New Philadelphia community. It is in the early 1870's that Peter bought the residence, shown below, at 202 South Broadway street. Hereafter is one of the many press articles featuring Peter Fahrny, his life and business.



RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. PETER FAHRNY, NEW PHILADELPHIA



Peter Fahrny Maria Fahrny

Christian Fahrny, a cabinet maker of Canton Bern, Switzerland, married Magdalena Kneubihl. He died in 1840, she, in 1845. They had three sons, one of whom was Peter, born March 12, 1830. The year after his parents died, he quit school to face the battle of life by himself. Eager to adapt himself to some paying vocation, he began to learn the trade of a cigar maker, which he soon mastered, and followed it until 1852. Through the influence of a half brother who had settled in New Philadelphia, Peter was induced to come to America. Leaving his home and friends in the Alpine country, he came to the west on a sailing vessel, making the voyage in thirty-four days. This journey ended in New Philadelphia where he was in the employ of William Ricketts for two years at his trade. In 1858 he married Maria Weber Dahler who came to America with a family by the name of Kohler, who raised her. In the same year Peter Fahrny started in business for himself, making his own cigars, but later adding a line of groceries. This business increased and he took John Geiser as a partner, which relation continued till March, 1897, when Mr. Fahrny bought the entire business. Soon thereafter he sold the one-half interest to Albert Reiser, as more fully mentioned on page 144. This partnership continued till 1905 when Mr. Reiser succeeded to full ownership. Since then Mr. Fahrny has lived in retirement from business. Mr. and Mrs. Fahrny never had any children of their own, but their home has been open to children with the result that four girls have been raised. Three of them were daughters of different sisters of Mrs. Fahrny. They are: Alice Rhinehart, the wife of Albert Reiser; Clara Schurch, the wife of John Holsworth; Lena Keiser, at home; and Emma Lauer, the wife of Albert Torgler. Mr. and Mrs. Fahrny belong to the Reformed Church. He is an Odd Fellow, and one of the owners of the "City Block." He has made five trips to Switzerland, but is well pleased to be an American.

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Some passages of the above press article are written out, for ease of reading. Quote:

In 1858, Peter Fahrny started in business for himself, making his own cigars, but later adding a line of groceries. This business increased and he took John Geiser as a partner, which relation continued till March, 1897, when Mr Fahrny bought the entire business. Soon thereafter, he sold the one-half interest to Albert Reiser (husband of his adopted Alice Fahrni). This partnership continued till 1905 when Mr Reiser succeeded to full ownership. Since then, Mr Fahrny has lived in retirement from business. Mr and Mrs Fahrny never had any children of their own, but their house has been open to children with the result that four girls have been raised.

Mr and Mrs Fahrny belong to the Reformed Church. He is an Odd Fellows and also one of the owners of the City Block. He has made five trips to Switzerland but is well pleased to be an American.

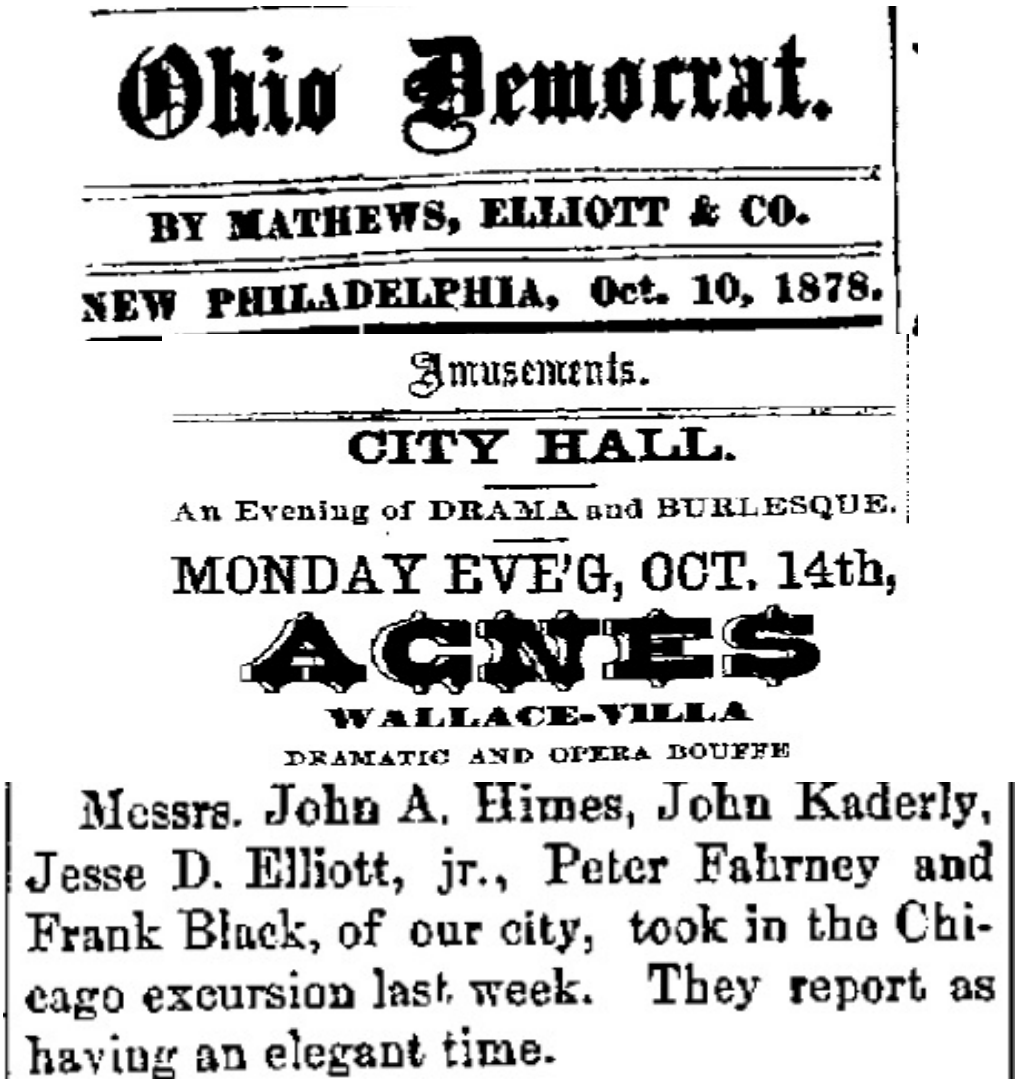
Unquote.



U.S., Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918 about Peter Fahrny

Owner's Name:	**Peter Fahrny**
State:	Ohio
County:	Tuscarawas
Year:	1875





Ohio Democrat.

BY MATHEWS, ELLIOTT & CO.

NEW PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 10, 1878.

Amusements.

CITY HALL.

An Evening of DRAMA and BURLESQUE.

MONDAY EVE'G, OCT. 14th,

AGNES

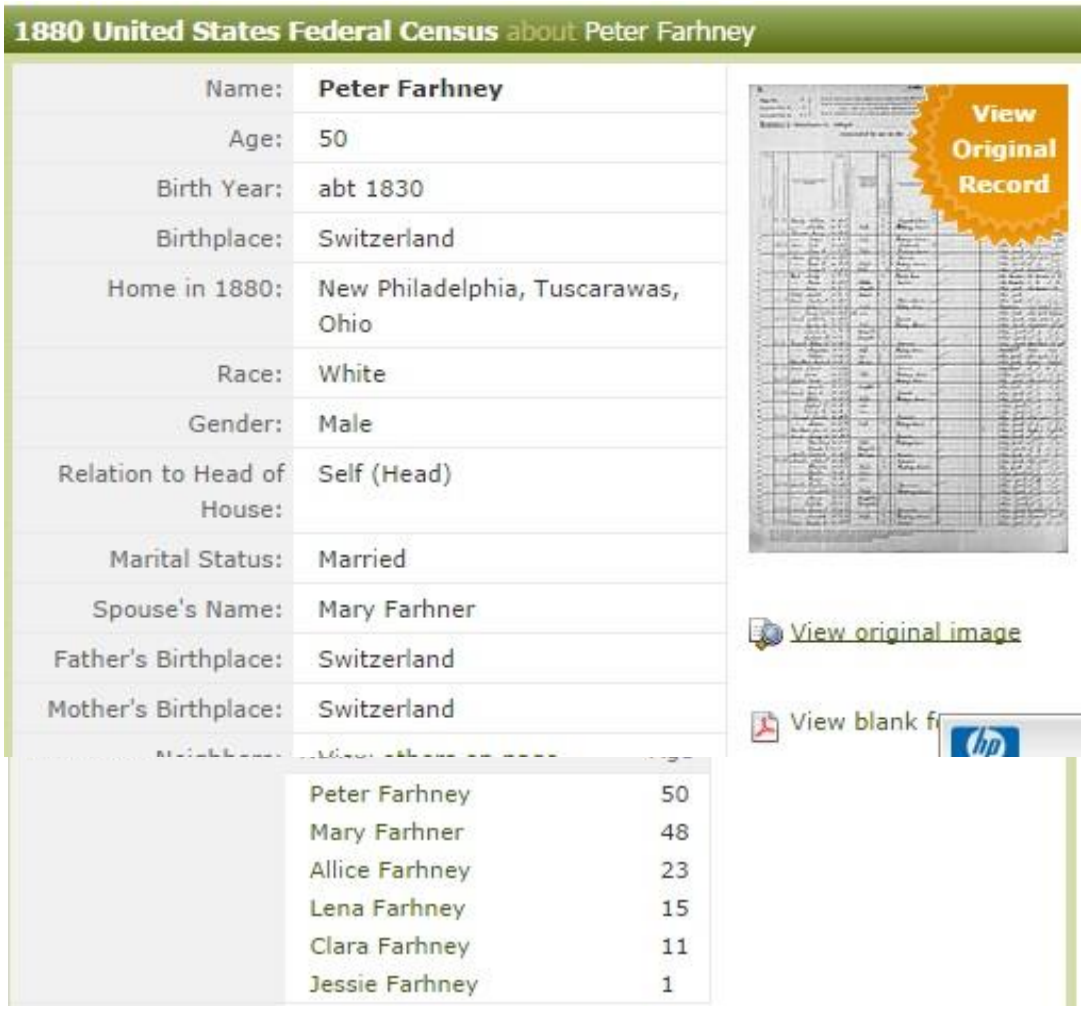
WALLACE-VILLA

DRAMATIC AND OPERA BOUFFE

Messrs. John A. Himes, John Kaderly, Jesse D. Elliott, jr., Peter Fahrney and Frank Black, of our city, took in the Chicago excursion last week. They report as having an elegant time.

By the middle of the 1870's, Peter Fahrni attained the status of a successful businessman in New Philadelphia. There are no reasons for not being impressed by Peter's flourishing businesses, barely 18 years after his arrival in America as a simple cigar making worker.

There exist numerous local press articles in the town talk sections referring to Peter's many real estate transactions which are not reproduced here. But Peter Fahrney's name was associated to the well-to-do of New Philadelphia society. His attending an opera in Chicago with his peers is worth to be mentioned.



In addition to Peter, his wife Mary and Alice shown on the 1870 Census, we see now, ten years later, three new members in the family, named Lena, Clara and Jessie. The three newcomers were adopted during the 1870's and could be relatives of Mary Fahrni-Weber. And Emma, born in 1880 to a sister of Mary Fahrni-Weber, would also be adopted in the early 1880's into the Fahrny family. As no Census was carried out in 1890, we do not know how long these adopted children lived in the Fahrni home, probably until they got married. Only Lena, who never married, would stay and look after her foster parents until the death of Mary in 1920.

It was certainly with a purpose that the Fahrny house, located at 202 South Broadway street, was a large one; in fact, it was large enough to adopt many more children. Hence, Peter had decided to bring four of his brother Friderich's six children from Switzerland to New Philadelphia. These four family related Swiss teenagers arrived in the USA during the 1880's, and more details will be provided later on Friedrich's children.

The Argus

AN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC JOURNAL.

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO, THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 28, 1884.

MANY REGRETS

Expressed over Horse Spilling a Good Thing.

Using one of his front feet instead of a hatchet, Peter Fahrny's horse did the "Carrie Nation" act, while standing in front of the store Thursday, and as a result, two cases of the "amber" were spilled into the street. The horse began to paw, and lifting its one foot too high came down "kerplunk" into a case of beer which was sitting on the edge of

A horse belonging to Peter Fahrney, the grocer, sailed out on the streets Tuesday morning to settle his oats, and while waltzing around came in contact with a team belonging to Jacob Reif, which joined the racket and went down Broadway at a fearful gait. At the corner below Kail's hotel the wagon struck a lamp post, and was reduced to almost kindling wood. The wagon bed was thrown against the house, and a small boy narrowly escaped becoming an angel by jumping into a doorway.

The Argus

AN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC JOURNAL.

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 8, 1883.

Peter Fahrney and John Geiser to Mary Danison, lot 477 in the town of New Philadelphia; $1500.

OHIO DEMOCRAT.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1886.

Affidavit of Circulation.

FEBRUARY 23d, 1886.

I, CHARLES H. MATHEWS, publisher of the OHIO DEMOCRAT, at New Philadelphia, Ohio, do solemnly swear that the circulation of the OHIO DEMOCRAT is TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED COPIES.

C. H. MATHEWS, Publisher.

Ohio Democrat.

BY MATHEWS, ELLIOTT & CO.

NEW PHILADELPHIA, June 10, 1880.

Probate Court

Notice is hereby given that the following accounts of Executors, Administrators, Guardians and Assignees, have been filed in the office of the Probate Judge of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and will be for hearing on Saturday, June 12, 1880, and continue from day to day until all are disposed of:

Second account and vouchers of Peter Fahrney, Guardian of Herman J. Grinmell.

Second account and vouchers of Peter Fahrney, Guardian of Clara Scherick.

Final account and vouchers of Peter Fahrney, Guardian of Louisa Scherick.

Ohio Democrat.

BY MATHEWS, ELLIOTT & CO.

NEW PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 16, 1882.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

Peter Fahrney vs. John Schildt.

By virtue of an order of sale to me directed and issued from the Court of Common Pleas of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, I will offer sale at public auction, at the door of the Court House, in the town of New Philadelphia, within and for the County Tuscarawas and State of Ohio, on

Saturday, April 24, 1886,

between the hours of 10 o'clock, a. m., and 4 o'clock, p. m., of said day, the following described real estate, situate in said county, to-wit:

Lot number four hundred and nineteen (419), in the town of New Philadelphia, in the county of Tuscarawas and State of Ohio. Appraised at $600.00.

Terms cash.

GEORGE W. BOWERS, Sheriff.

J. D. Laughead, atty. mar18td



1900 United States Federal Census about Peter Fuhrney

Name:	**Peter Fuhrney [Peter Fahrney]**
Age:	70
Birth Date:	Mar 1830
Birthplace:	Switzerland
Home in 1900:	New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas, Ohio
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Immigration Year:	1855
Relation to Head of House:	Head
Marital Status:	Married
Spouse's Name:	Mary Fuhrney
Marriage Year:	1858

View Original Record

View original image

View blank form

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Peter Fuhrney	70
	Mary Fuhrney	59
	Lena Fuhrney	35
	Emma Fuhrney	19

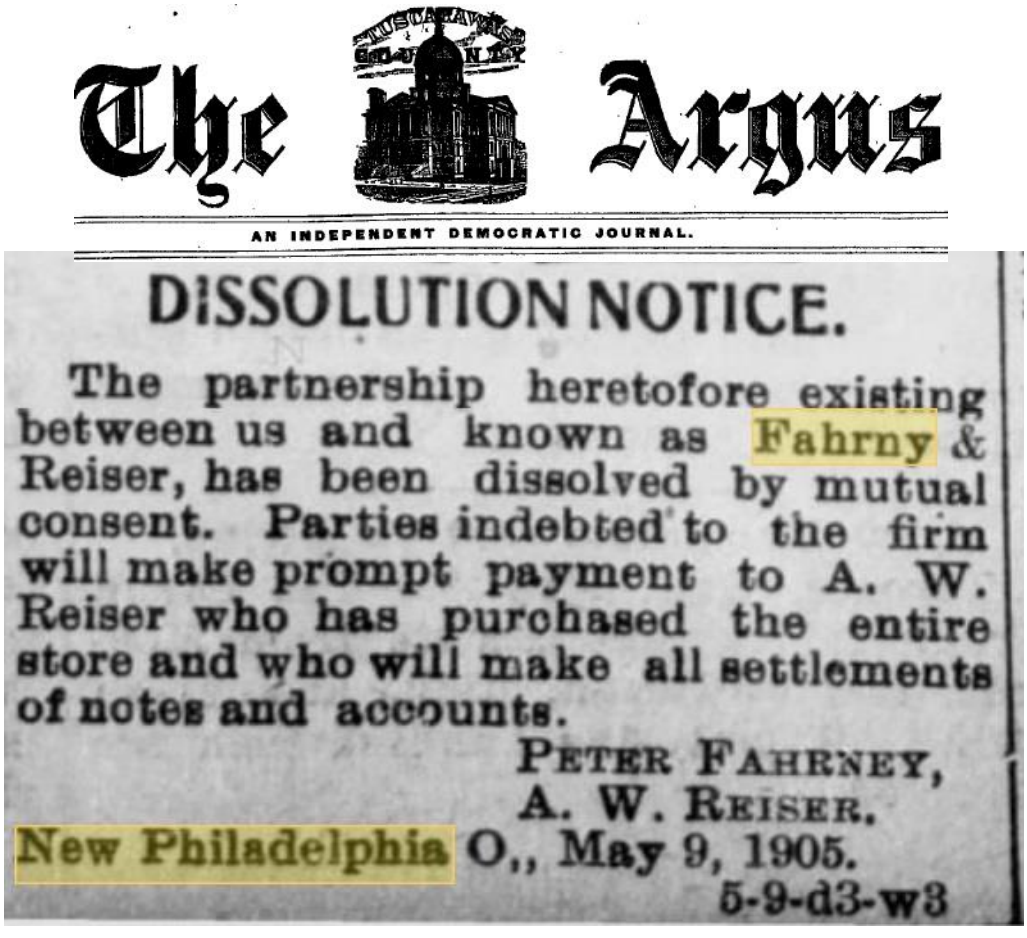
The 1900 Census indicates that the Fahrny family still have their home on South Broadway Street. As there was no Federal Census in 1890, the 20-year gap between census denied us important data about Peter and Mary Fahrny's adopted children. Alice Fahrni had left and was now married to Albert Reiser, a manager in Peter Fahrny's firm. But Lena was still there and she would care for her foster parents until the end. Clara and Jessie had left the family home, and were probably married. Emma was 19 and would also soon leave the family.

But the missing 1890 Federal Census prevented us mostly from obtaining data on the location of the four teenagers from Switzerland. Maria Fahrni immigrated in 1883, aged 19. Her brother Friedrich P. Fahrni arrived at uncle Peter's home in 1884 aged 20. Christian, also at the age of twenty, immigrated four years later. And Rosina joined her uncle Peter's home in 1894, aged 17. All four of Friedrich's children must have lived in Peter Fahrny's home for some years.

Peter was now 75 years old and felt ready to finally take retirement. As mentioned earlier, Peter had dissolved his partnership with John Geiser in 1897, in order to take full control of the business. In about 1898, Peter sold half of the company's interests to Albert Reiser, his senior staff member who had married Alice Fahrni. Following this deal, the Peter Fahrney business changed its name to Fahrney & Reiser.

Seven years later, the 1905 press release (below) informs of the dissolution of the Fahrney & Reiser company. And the press release on the following page confirms the retirement of Peter Fahrney, and the transfer of the business to a sole ownership of Albert Reiser.

My assessment of page 228 demonstrates that Alice Fahrni, the first adopted child of Peter, is presumed to be the daughter of Friedrich Fahrni. Peter Fahrni's transactions and handing over of his company interests to the husband of Alice was the best way to keep the business in the family. Needless to say that it would not be surprising if Friedrich's two sons, Friedrich Jr. and Christian, had been part of and worked in the Fahrney & Reiser company.



The Argus

AN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC JOURNAL.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE.

The partnership heretofore existing between us and known as Fahrny & Reiser, has been dissolved by mutual consent. Parties indebted to the firm will make prompt payment to A. W. Reiser who has purchased the entire store and who will make all settlements of notes and accounts.

PETER FAHRNEY,
A. W. REISER.

New Philadelphia O., May 9, 1905.

5-9-d3-w3

Daily Times, New Philadelphia, OH, 8 May 1905

Peter Fahrney Sells His Grocery to Arthur Reiser.

Peter Fahrney, who disposed of his grocery business last Saturday has been one of New Philadelphia's business men for nearly 50 years. When he came to America, at the age of 22, he looked about New York for a location, but came on to Canal Dover where he was in the cigar manufacturing business for six years. He came to New Philadelphia in 1858, entering the grocery business with John Geiser. The partnership was continued many years, Mr. Geiser retiring from the firm.

Al. W. Reiser, who had married one of Mr. Fahrney's adopted daughters, succeeded as a partner, and on Saturday closed the deal whereby he becomes the sole owner.

Mr. Fahrney, being upright, honest and accommodating, had an extensive trade, and being frugal and saving amassed quite a competency which he can enjoy during the few remaining years of his life.

Mr. and Mrs. Fahrney never had any children of their own, but they adopted six girls and reared all of them, except one which died when young. May pleasure be the lot of Mr. and Mrs. Fahrney is the wish of their friends.

ODD FELLOWS

Of Schoenbrun Lodge Gave Annual Reception. It Was Highly Enjoyable Affair.

To commemorate the last meeting which Schoenbrun Lodge No. 430, I. O. O.F. were to hold on a Monday evening, the members gave their annual reception and banquet to their families last night For nearly a half century, since July 13, 1869, when this lodge was organized and instituted. the regular weekly meetings have been held on Monday night. Now that the order has grown so large, having a membership of over 200, it had become imperative to have the meeting night changed in or-

sang a solo. This was followed by a "History of the Lodge" given by Mr. Fred Glauser. It is needless to say that it was a highly interesting talk, as Mr. Glauser, though not a charter member, has been affiliated with the order since Sept. 20, 1869. "Of the eight charter members," said Mr. Glauser, "six are living, Jacob Eichel, Peter Fahrney, John Geiser, Samuel Rufer, Nicholas Schwab and Louis Zellner."

Peter Fahrney was a prominent member of the ODD Fellows Fraternity, passing many chairs in the Lodge 430, I.O.O.F., organized and instituted in 1869. Peter was one of the eight charter members of the Schoenbrun Lodge in New Philadelphia. John Geiser, Peter's ex-business partner, was also a charter member. Peter's half-brother Johann Christian (JCF) was also IOOF and he and his wife were buried in an Odd Fellows Cemetery.



1910 United States Federal Census about Peter Fahrney

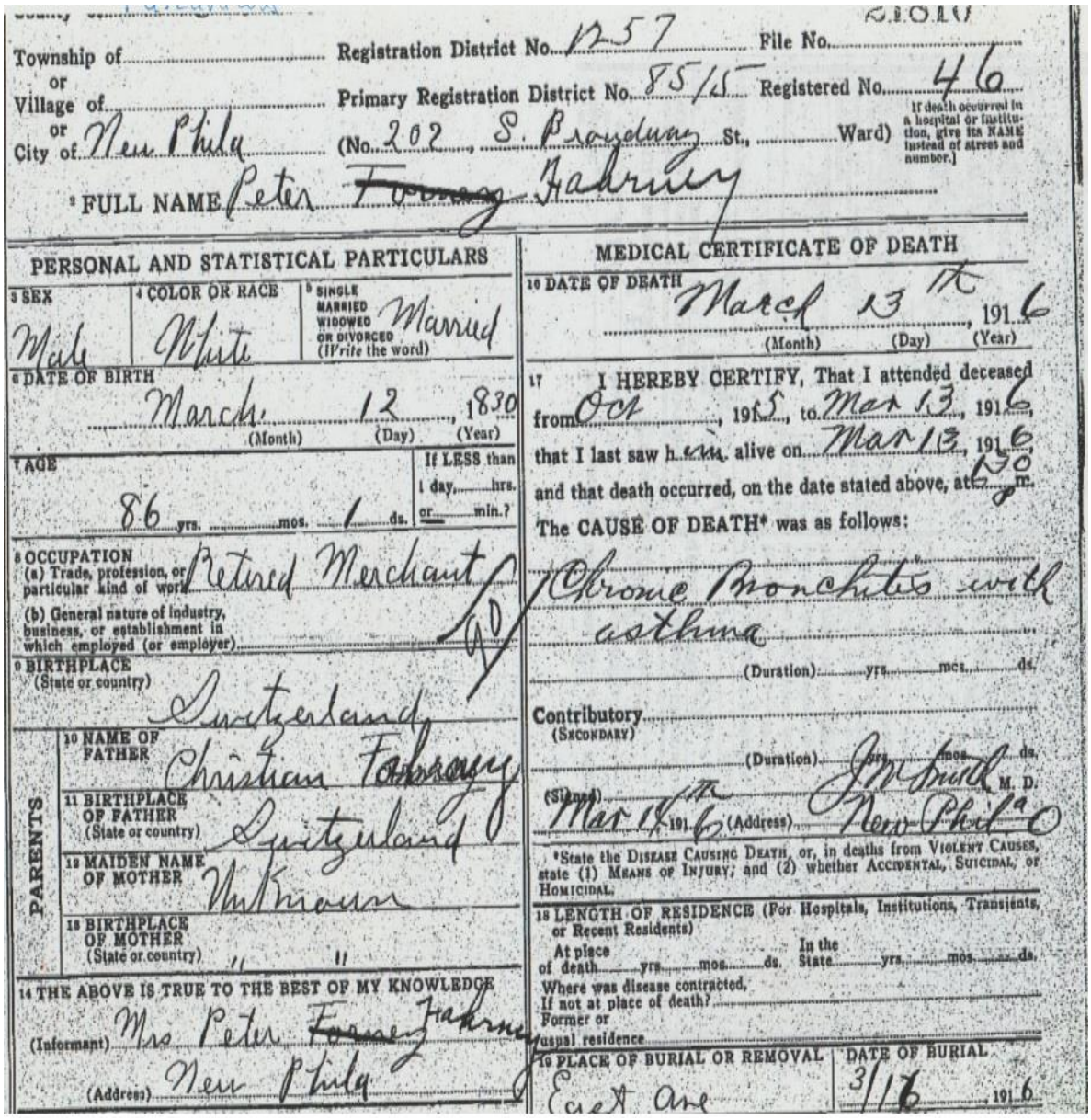
Name:	**Peter Fahrney**
Age in 1910:	80
Birth Year:	abt 1830
Birthplace:	Switzerland
Home in 1910:	New Philadelphia Ward 2, Tuscarawas, Ohio
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Immigration Year:	1852
Relation to Head of House:	Head
Marital Status:	Married
Spouse's Name:	Mary Fahrney
Father's Birthplace:	Switzerland
Mother's Birthplace:	Switzerland
Neighbors:	View others on page

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Peter Fahrney	80
	Mary Fahrney	78
	Lena Fahrney	45

Peter Fahrny is now 80 years old and his wife Mary 78. With the exception of Lena, all their adopted children have left the Fahrni residence in 202 South Broadway street to live their own life.

No additional press reports about Peter Fahrny could be found after his retirement; it seems that he was spending the last years of his life in semi seclusion, away from public life, until his demise six years later.

Peter's official spelling of "Fahrni" was subjected to many variances since his arrival to the USA, such as Fahrney, Fahrny, Forney and some outrageous distortion, imagined by the Census takers. But whenever Peter had an influence on the matter, he would have his name spelled Fahrny, like on the picture of his house in 1875, the dissolution of his Fahrny-Reiser company in 1905 and his headstone.



Township of ..... Registration District No. 1257 File No. .....
or
Village of ..... Primary Registration District No. 85/15 Registered No. 46
or
City of New Phila (No. 202 S. Broadway St., ... Ward) [If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]

1 FULL NAME Peter ~~Fourney~~ Fahrney

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX: Male
4 COLOR OR RACE: White
5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (Write the word): Married
6 DATE OF BIRTH: March 12, 1830 (Month) (Day) (Year)
7 AGE: 86 yrs. ..... mos. 1 ds. If LESS than 1 day, ... hrs. or ..... min.?
8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work: Retired Merchant
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer): GD
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country): Switzerland

PARENTS
10 NAME OF FATHER: Christian Fahrney
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country): Switzerland
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER: Unknown
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country): " "

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
(Informant) Mrs Peter ~~Fourney~~ Fahrney
(Address) New Phila

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

10 DATE OF DEATH: March 13 1916 (Month) (Day) (Year)
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Oct, 1915, to Mar 13, 1916, that I last saw h.[illegible] alive on Mar 13, 1916, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 2.20 p.m.
The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
Chronic Bronchitis with asthma
(Duration): ..... yrs. ..... mos. ..... ds.
Contributory (SECONDARY)
(Duration) ..... yrs. ..... mos. ..... ds.
(Signed) J M Durrell M. D.
Mar 17 1916 (Address) New Phila O

*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents)
At place of death ..... yrs. ..... mos. ..... ds. In the State ..... yrs. ..... mos. ..... ds.
Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?
Former or usual residence

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL: East Ave
DATE OF BURIAL: 3/16 1916

Peter Fahrni (Fahrney) died on 13 March 1916 in his home at 202 South Broadway Street in New Philadelphia. Peter left Earth one day after his 86th birthday with chronic bronchitis and asthma.. Peter Fahrni was born in Switzerland and immigrated to the USA at the age of 22. He had lived in New Philadelphia for 64 years.

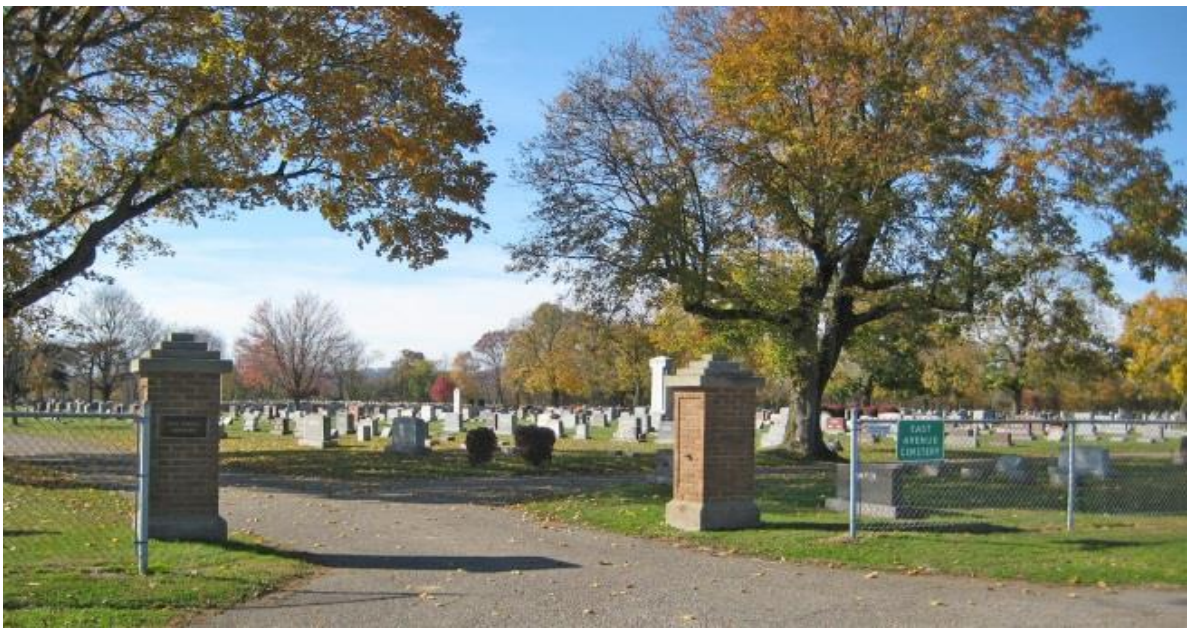


Peter Fahrny



Birth: Mar.12, 1830
Death: Mar.13, 1916

Burial:
East Avenue Cemetery
New Philadelphia
Tuscarawas County
Ohio, USA
Plot: Mausoleum



The Daily Times, New Philadelphia, OH, 8 May 1916

Probate Court

Estate of Peter Fahrney, deceased —Order of sale of personal property returned duly executed and filed— Sale approved and confirmed.

After Peter Fahrny's death, the Probate Court of New Philadelphia supervised the sale of some of his properties in May, 1916. We have confirmation that the above sale did not include the residence at 202 South Broadway street, as his wife Mary still lived there at her death, four years later. But we must assume that the South Broadway residence was sold in 1920 after Mary's death. Indeed, Alice Reiser-Fahrni who inherited the Fahrny business lived, later, at 446 Front Avenue, and not in South Broadway as would have been expected.

There are indications that Peter Fahrny sold his cigar factory in the 1970's. After the sale, he moved to the up-market South Brodadway Burry building to develop his grocery business. He kept his business in that same building until his retirement. His successor Alber Reiser added a saloon to the business.



In 1869, John Burry built a large brick building on South Broadway. The Burry building housed the Albert Reiser Grocery and the Albert Reiser Saloon. Today the building is owned by Attorney Michael Johnson and houses numerous businesses including the law practice of Johnson, Urban, and Range.

Most of Peter Fahrny's Last Will and Testament documents have been retrieved. Available Probate Records on his distribution of assets (pages 563 & 564 & 565), dated 20 March, 1916, corroborate the transfers below.

Mary Fahrny (wife)
I, Peter Fahrny, bequeath to Mary Fahrny, my wife, all the real estate, personal property, money notes, mortgages and accounts of every nature to have and to hold the same during her natural life. Furthermore, my wife Mary is appointed as the sole executor of my last will.

Alice Maria Fahrni, niece, wife of Albert Reiser
Alice and her husband Albert Reiser had already inherited Peter's grocery business in 1905 as stated on page 239. The value of this inheritance cannot be assessed, but it must have been considerable.
In addition, Peter's last will and testament bequeaths Lot 154 and Lot 153 to Alice and Albert. These are presumably plots of land or buildings.

Lena Keiser (adopted child who took care of Peter & Mary)
Lena received Lot 53 and furniture.

Clara Holzwarth (adopted child)
Clara was allocated $2,000.-

Emma Torgler (adopted child)
Emma was allocated $2,000.-

Maria Fahrni-Stalder (daughter of Friedrich who had immigrated in 1883)
Maria was allocated $1,000.-

Friedrich P. Fahrni (nephew, son of Friedrich who had immigrated in 1884)
Friedrich was allocated $300.-

Christian Fahrni (nephew, son of Friedrich who had immigrated in 1889)
Christian had his debts cancelled

Rosina (Rosa) Fahrni-Lechter (daughter of Friedrich, immigrated in 1894)
Rosina was allocated $300.-

PROBATE COURT, TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO

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No. 7464 Estate of Peter Fahrney - Probate of Will.

Be it remembered, That heretofore to-wit: on the 20th day of March A.D. 1916, a paper writing purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Peter Fahrney, late of Goshen Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, deceased, was filed in the Office of the Probate Judge within and for the County of Tuscarawas and State of Ohio for Probate and Record herein, as follows:

Last Will and Testament.

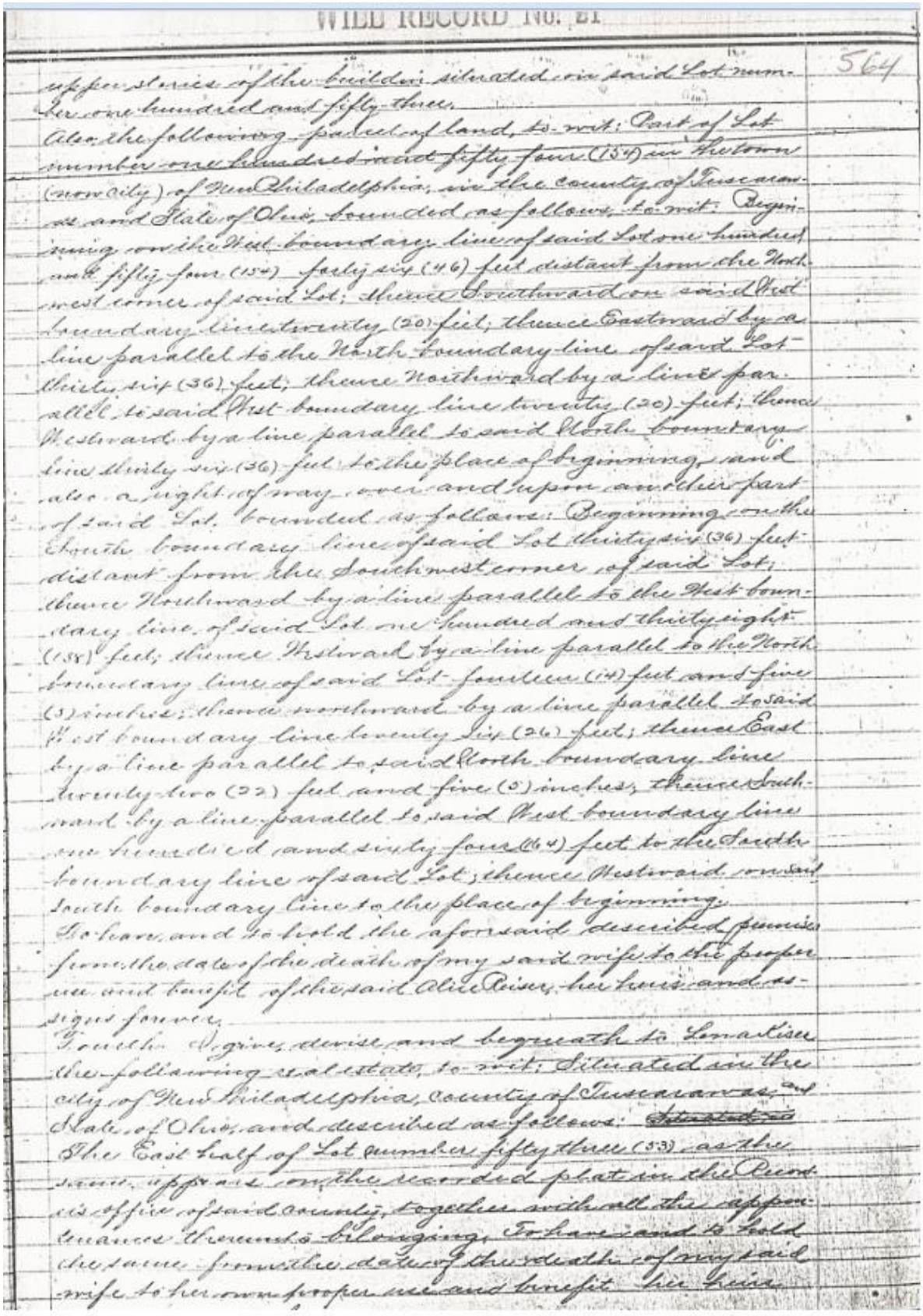
In the Name of the Omnipotent Father of all, amen:

I Peter Fahrney, of the City of New Philadelphia, county of Tuscarawas, and State of Ohio, being about seventy eight years of age, and being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make, publish and declare this my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking and making void all other Last Wills and Testaments by me made heretofore.

First: My will is that all my just debts and funeral expenses shall be paid out of my estate as soon after my decease as shall be found convenient.

Second:- I give, devise, and bequeath to Mary Fahrney, my wife, all the real estate, personal property, money, notes, mortgages and accounts of every nature, and description of which I may die seized and possessed, to have and to hold the same during her natural life, and she is to have all the rents, issues, profits and income therefrom for her use, benefit and support until her death, and when she may die, the expenses of her last sickness, funeral and burial, shall be paid out of said income and property, described aforesaid.

Third:- I give, devise and bequeath to Olive Risser wife of Albert H. Risser, the following real estate, to-wit: Out lot number one hundred and fifty three (153) in the town (now city) of New Philadelphia, in the County of Tuscarawas and State of Ohio, bounded as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Lot, thence Eastward by a line parallel to the North boundary line of said Lot, sixty six (66) feet to the East boundary line of said Lot, thence Southward on said East boundary line twenty two (22) feet and eleven (11) inches, thence Westward by a line parallel to said North boundary line sixty six (66) feet to the West boundary line of said Lot, thence Northward on said West boundary line twenty two (22) feet and eleven



WILL RECORD NO. 21

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upper stories of the buildings situated on said Lot number one hundred and fifty-three.

Also the following parcel of land, to-wit: Part of Lot number one hundred and fifty four (154) in the town (now city) of New Philadelphia, in the county of Tuscarawas and State of Ohio, bounded as follows, to-wit: Beginning on the West boundary line of said Lot one hundred and fifty four (154) forty six (46) feet distant from the North-west corner of said Lot; thence Southward on said West boundary line twenty (20) feet; thence Eastward by a line parallel to the North boundary line of said Lot thirty six (36) feet; thence Northward by a line parallel to said West boundary line twenty (20) feet; thence Westward by a line parallel to said North boundary line thirty six (36) feet to the place of beginning, and also a right of way over and upon another part of said Lot, bounded as follows: Beginning on the South boundary line of said Lot thirty six (36) feet distant from the Southwest corner of said Lot; thence Northward by a line parallel to the West boundary line of said Lot one hundred and thirty eight (138) feet; thence Westward by a line parallel to the North boundary line of said Lot fourteen (14) feet and five (5) inches; thence northward by a line parallel to said West boundary line twenty six (26) feet; thence East by a line parallel to said North boundary line twenty two (22) feet and five (5) inches; thence Southward by a line parallel to said West boundary line one hundred and sixty four (164) feet to the South boundary line of said Lot; thence Westward on said South boundary line to the place of beginning.

To have and to hold the aforesaid described premises from the date of the death of my said wife to the proper use and benefit of the said Alice Reiser, her heirs and assigns forever.

Fourth. I give, devise and bequeath to Lomatisee the following real estate, to-wit: Situated in the city of New Philadelphia, county of Tuscarawas and State of Ohio, and described as follows: ~~Situated in~~ The East half of Lot number fifty three (53) as the same appears on the recorded plat in the Record's office of said county, together with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging. To have and to hold the same from the date of the death of my said wife to her own proper use and benefit. Her heirs

PROBATE COURT, TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO

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my family residence, which may be left unoccupied by my said wife at her death.

Fifth. I give and bequeath to Emma Tongler, formerly Emma Lower the sum of Two Thousand Dollars ($2000.00) in money the same to be paid to her as soon after the death of my said wife, as may be convenient.

Sixth. I give and bequeath to my nephew Frederick Fahrney, the sum of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00) in money, the same to be paid to him, as soon after the death of my wife as may be convenient.

Seventh. I give and bequeath to my niece, Rosa Lichte, formerly Rosa Fahrney, the sum of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00), in money, the same to be paid to her as soon after the death of my said wife as may be convenient.

Eighth. I give and bequeath to Clela Jacquett, daughter of Byron Trout, the sum of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00) in money, the same to be paid to her as soon after the death of my said wife as may be convenient.

Ninth. I give and bequeath to my nephew Christian Fahrney, any promissory note I may hold against him at my death, and the same shall be delivered up to him cancelled.

Tenth. I give and bequeath to Clara Kolbrook, wife of John Kolbrook, the sum of Two Thousand Dollars ($2000.00) in money, the same to be paid to her as soon after the death of my said wife as may be convenient.

Eleventh. I give and bequeath to Mary Stalder, wife of John Stalder, the sum of One Thousand Dollars ($1000.00) in money, the same to be paid to her as soon after the death of my said wife as may be convenient, but if at my death I hold a promissory note against said Mary Stalder, the the amount due and owing upon said note shall be deducted from said bequest of one thousand Dollars and only the remainder if said sum, if any, shall be paid to her; and said note shall be then delivered up to be cancelled.

Twelfth. I hereby nominate and appoint my wife, Mary Fahrney, the sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament.

In testimony whereof I have set my hand to this my last will and testament, at New Philadelphia Ohio this 15th day of April A.D. 1908.

Peter Fahrney.

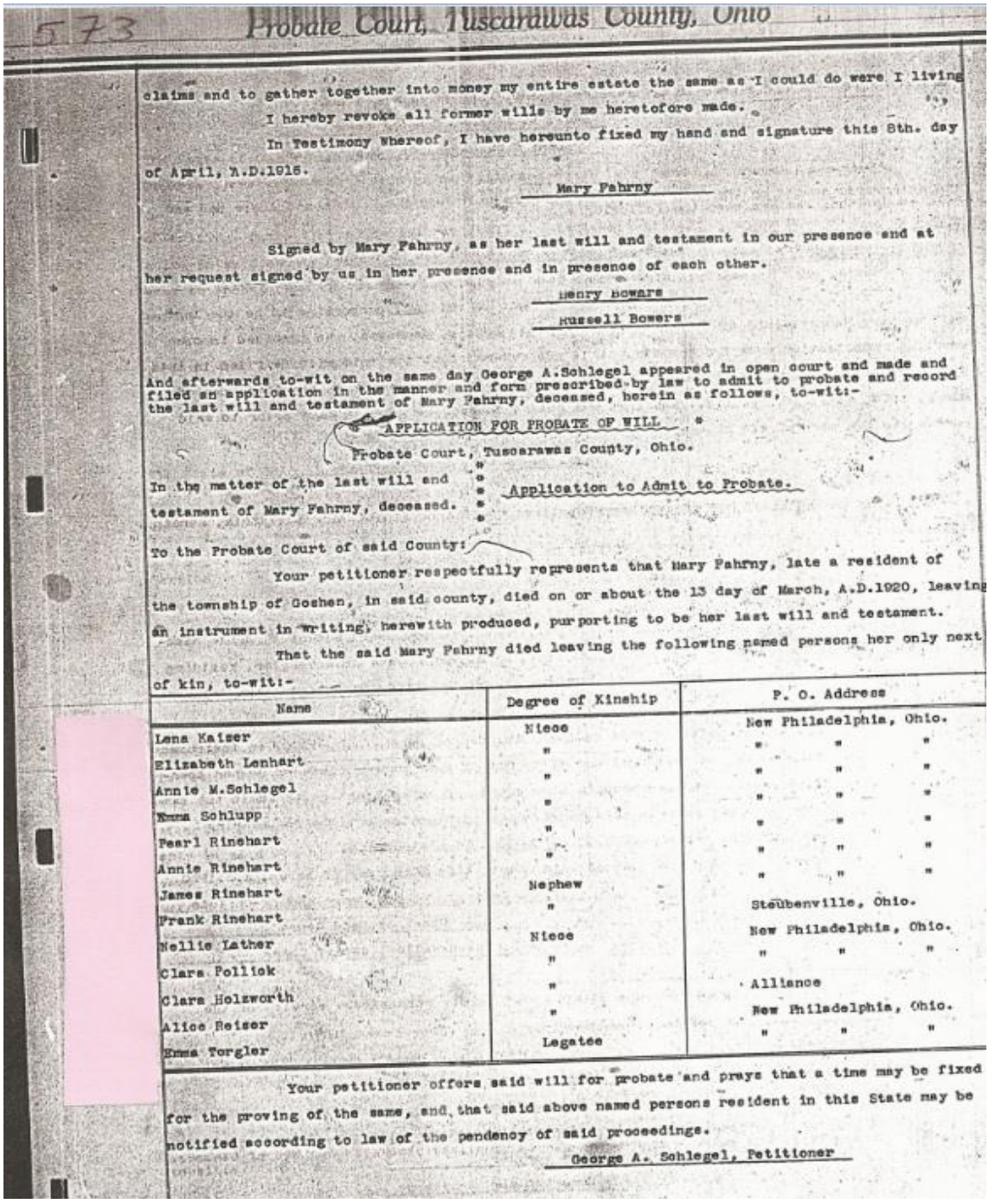
MRS. FAHRNY DIES AT NOON

At noon Saturday, Mrs. Marie Fahrny, 89, died on the fourth anniversary of the death of her husband, Peter Fahrney, retired merchant.

Death occurred at the family home, South Broadway and West Front street. She had been bedfast for the



After the death of her husband Peter Fahrny, Mary made her last will and testament, dated 8th April 1916 regarding her remaining assets. Only Alice Reiser-Fahrni is included in Mary's inheritance document. The remaining assets of Mary Fahrny are bequeathed to her next of kin, related to her four sisters' descendants, as shown below.



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claims and to gather together into money my entire estate the same as I could do were I living

I hereby revoke all former wills by me heretofore made.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto fixed my hand and signature this 8th. day of April, A.D.1916.

Mary Fahrny

Signed by Mary Fahrny, as her last will and testament in our presence and at her request signed by us in her presence and in presence of each other.

Henry Bowers

Russell Bowers

And afterwards to-wit on the same day George A.Schlegel appeared in open court and made and filed an application in the manner and form prescribed by law to admit to probate and record the last will and testament of Mary Fahrny, deceased, herein as follows, to-wit:-

APPLICATION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

Probate Court, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

In the matter of the last will and testament of Mary Fahrny, deceased. Application to Admit to Probate.

To the Probate Court of said County:

Your petitioner respectfully represents that Mary Fahrny, late a resident of the township of Goshen, in said county, died on or about the 13 day of March, A.D.1920, leaving an instrument in writing, herewith produced, purporting to be her last will and testament.

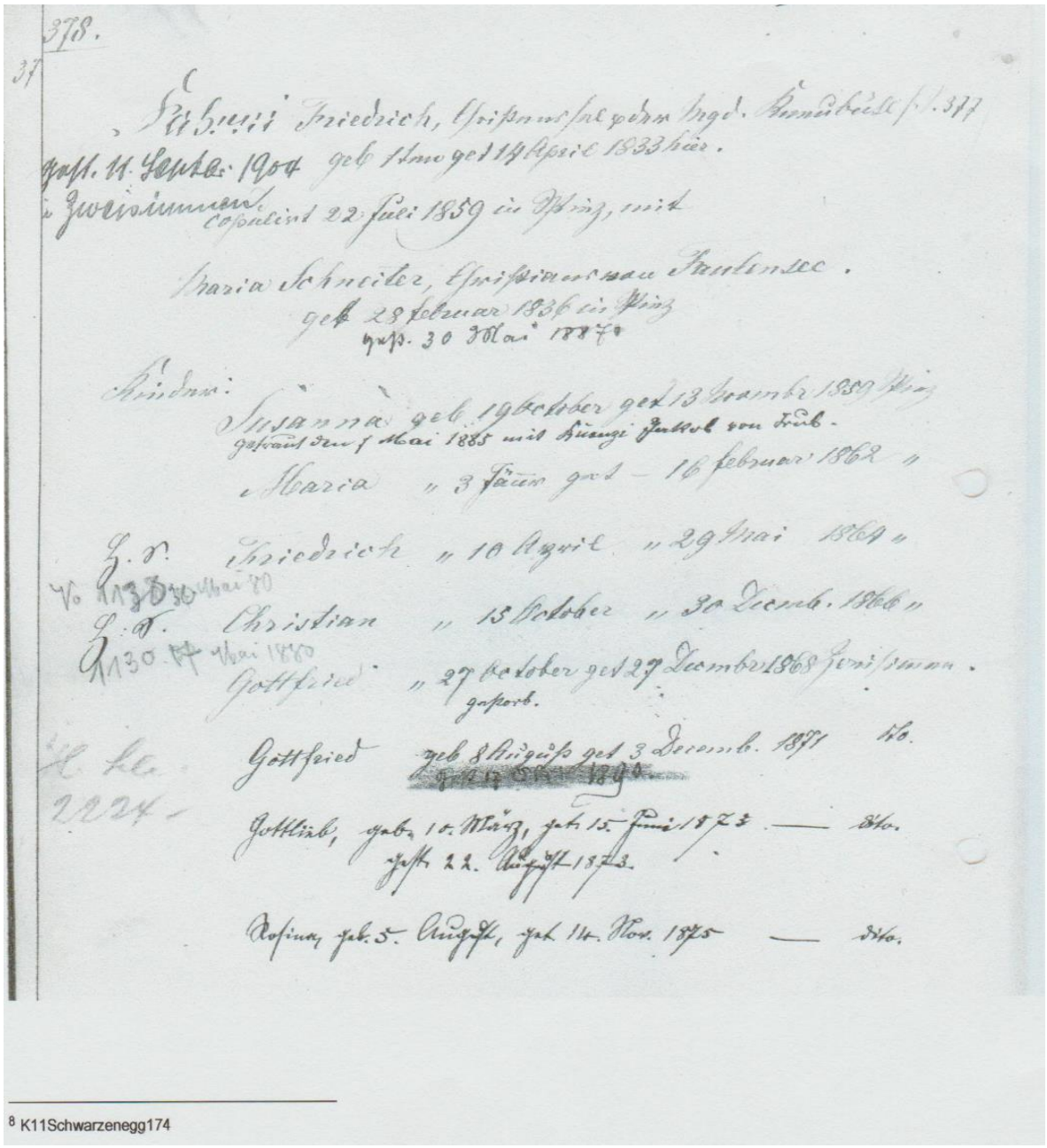
That the said Mary Fahrny died leaving the following named persons her only next of kin, to-wit:-

Name	Degree of Kinship	P. O. Address
Lena Kaiser	Niece	New Philadelphia, Ohio.
Elizabeth Lenhart	"	" " "
Annie M.Schlegel	"	" " "
Emma Schlupp	"	" " "
Pearl Rinehart	"	" " "
Annie Rinehart	"	" " "
James Rinehart	Nephew	" " "
Frank Rinehart	"	Steubenville, Ohio.
Nellie Lather	Niece	New Philadelphia, Ohio.
Clara Pollick	"	" " "
Clara Holzworth	"	Alliance
Alice Reiser	"	New Philadelphia, Ohio.
Emma Torgler	Legatee	" " "

Your petitioner offers said will for probate and prays that a time may be fixed for the proving of the same, and that said above named persons resident in this State may be notified according to law of the pendency of said proceedings.

George A. Schlegel, Petitioner

Friedrich Fahrni was the second child of Christian and Magdalena Kneubuhl. He was born on 1 April 1833 and he married Maria Schneiter in 1859. Together, they had six children, four of whom emigrated to the USA to join their uncle Peter in New Philadelphia, Ohio.



[8] K11Schwarzenegg174

New Philadelphia, Ohio, Peter Fahrni-Weber adoptions

(First child Alice adopted in Switzerland & four others in USA)

(Alice Maria Fahrni was most probably the daughter of Friedrich Fahrni, Peter's younger brother)

Peter & Maria Weber	**Alice Maria Fahrni** ~ 10 Dec.1857, cant. Bern, Switzerland T.18 May 1933 Ohio	Albert W. Reiser ~ 5 Dec.1862 in New Philadelphia OH oo 1887, Ohio T.4 Sep.1939 Ohio	Alice Maria Fahrni & Albert Reiser	Anna Marie Reiser ~ 24 Apr.1890, Ohio T. 1976	Eugene Schumaker ~ 1887 T. 1940
				Carl F. Reiser ~ 26 Jan.1894, Ohio T. 1923	Hazel Swinderman
				Eugene A. Reiser ~ 5 Dec.1896, Ohio T. 1974	Dorothy Milar ~ 1896 T. 1980
				George A. Reiser ~ 1 Jan.1900, Ohio T. 1979	Elizabeth Stratton ~ 1895 T. 1962
	Lena Keiser Fahrni ~ 1864 Ohio	T. 1910 -->			
	Clara Scher. Fahrni ~ 1868 Ohio T.1944	John Holzwarth ~ 1868 T. 1932			
	Emma Low. Fahrni ~ 1880 T.1942	Albert F. Torgler ~ 1881 T.1962			
	Jessie Fahrni	~ 1878 Ohio T. 1881			

Friedrich Fahrni-Schneiter US Line

Friedrich & Maria Schneiter	**Maria Fahrni** ~ 10 Jan.1862 Spiez, **Emigrated to New Phil. OH in 1883** T. 1920 --> USA	John Stalder	Friedrich & Rosetta Wuthrich	**Peter Fred. Fahrni** ~15 Feb.1899 Ohio **T.** 8 Sep.1945	Enlisted in WW1
	Friedrich P. Fahrni ~ 10 Apr.1864 Spiez **Emigrated to New Phil.OH on 3 May 1884** **T.**6 Mar.1928, Ohio	Rosetta Wuthrich ~ 16 Nov.1866 Hutwill T. 25 Apr.1938 Ohio		**Ida R. Fahrni**	~ 1901 Ohio USA
				Frederick C. Fahrni	~ .. 1903 Ohio USA
	Christian Fahrni ~ 15 Oct.1866 Spiez **Emigrated to New Phil.OH on 12 May 1889** T. 1920 --> USA				
	Gottfried Fahrni ~ 8 Aug.1871 Zweisi. p. Fuhrmann T. 9 May 1910 Zweisimmen, canton Bern.	Maria Ueltschi ~ 4 Mar.1874 **oo** 7 Jan.1905 Zweisimmen	Gottfried & M.Ueltsch	**Fritz Fahrni** ~ 9 Oct.1906 Zweisimmen	**Emigrated to USA**
	Rosina Fahrni ~ 5/14 Aug.1875 Zweisimmen **Emigrated to New Phil.OH in 1894** **T.** 1916 --> USA	Mr …. Lechter			

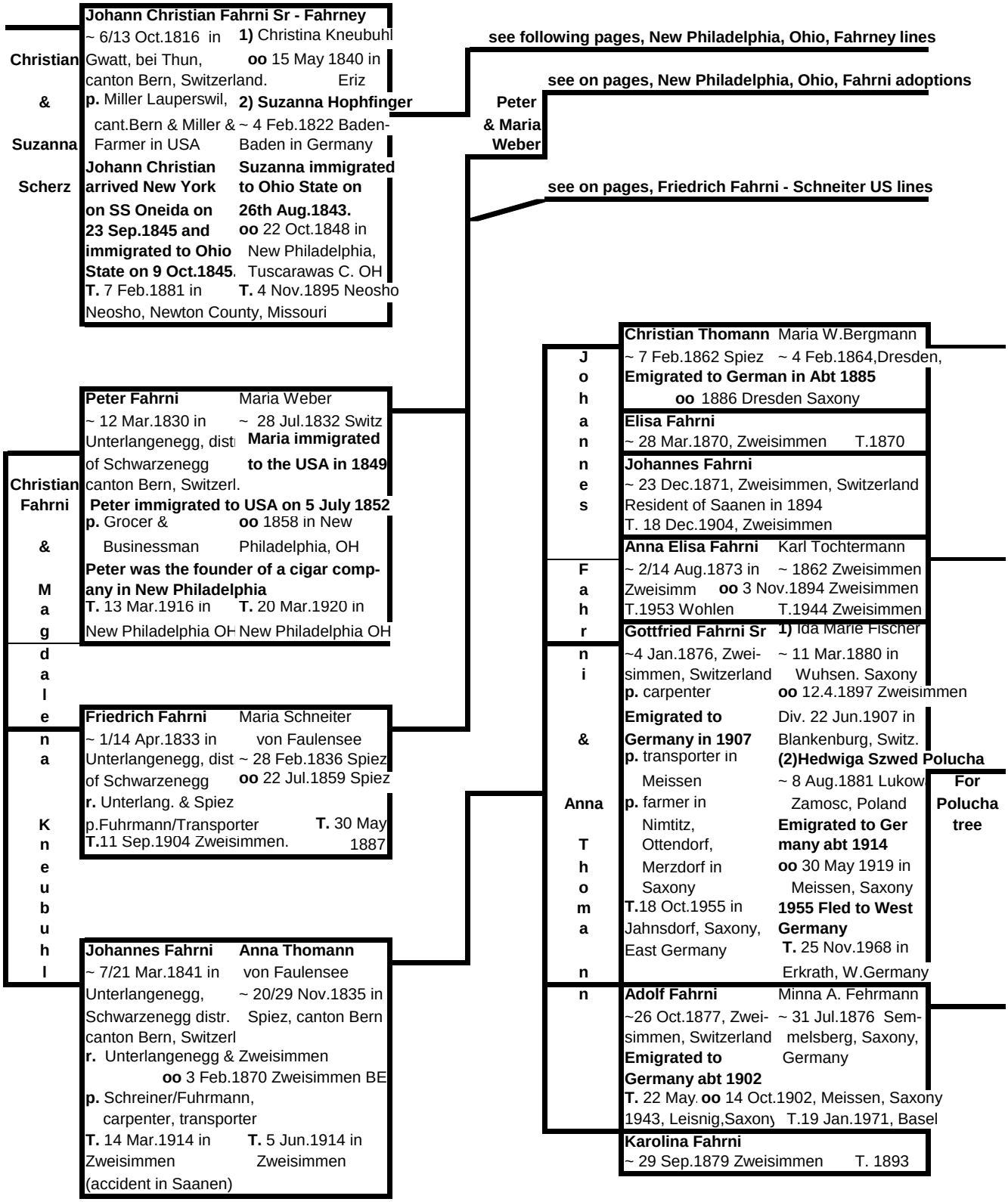
No emigration details of the four children of Friedrich Fahrni, Peter's brother who had remained in Switzerland, could be found in the vital statistics. The only evidence we have of their immigration to the USA is a hand-written addendum in the archives of the municipality of Zweisimmen. As shown below, the archives state that the children had lived in America for a certain number of years. The handwritten and almost illegible, annotation in the Zweisimmen archives, dated 11 October 1914, states that Friedrich Fahrni's four children had emigrated to the USA as follows:

			Emigrated
Maria Fahrni	~ 10 Jan.1862	In America for 31 years	(1883)
Friedrich Fahrni	~ 10 Apr.1864	In America for 30 years	(1884)
Christian Fahrni	~ 15 Oct.1866	In America for 25 years	(1889)
Rosina Fahrni	~ 5 Aug.1875	In America for 20 years	(1894)



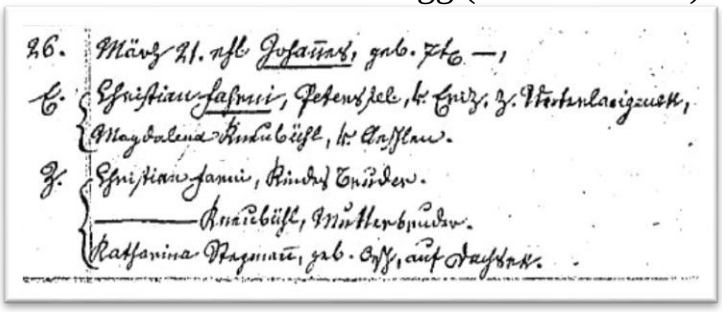
And much later, in 1916, another proof that Friedrich's four children did in fact live in New Philadelphia is the inheritance details, following their uncle Peter's demise (see page 246).

The offspring of Alice Reiser-Fahrni and those of Friedrich P. Fahrni have not been researched.


Johann Christian Fahrni Sr - Fahrney
~ 6/13 Oct.1816 in Gwatt, bei Thun, canton Bern, Switzerland.
p. Miller Lauperswil, cant.Bern & Miller & Farmer in USA
1) Christina Kneubuhl
oo 15 May 1840 in Eriz
2) Suzanna Hophfinger
~ 4 Feb.1822 Baden-Baden in Germany
Johann Christian arrived New York on SS Oneida on 23 Sep.1845 and immigrated to Ohio State on 9 Oct.1845.
Suzanna immigrated to Ohio State on 26th Aug.1843.
oo 22 Oct.1848 in New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas C. OH
T. 7 Feb.1881 in Neosho, Newton County, Missouri
T. 4 Nov.1895 Neosho
Christian & Suzanna Scherz
see following pages, New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrney lines
see on pages, New Philadelphia, Ohio, Fahrni adoptions
Peter & Maria Weber
see on pages, Friedrich Fahrni - Schneiter US lines
Peter Fahrni
Maria Weber
~ 12 Mar.1830 in Unterlangenegg, distr of Schwarzenegg canton Bern, Switzerl.
~ 28 Jul.1832 Switz
Maria immigrated to the USA in 1849
Peter immigrated to USA on 5 July 1852
p. Grocer & Businessman
oo 1858 in New Philadelphia, OH
Peter was the founder of a cigar company in New Philadelphia
T. 13 Mar.1916 in New Philadelphia OH
T. 20 Mar.1920 in New Philadelphia OH
Christian Fahrni & Magdalena Kneubuhl
Friedrich Fahrni
Maria Schneiter von Faulensee
~ 1/14 Apr.1833 in Unterlangenegg, distr of Schwarzenegg
~ 28 Feb.1836 Spiez
oo 22 Jul.1859 Spiez
r. Unterlang. & Spiez
p.Fuhrmann/Transporter
T.11 Sep.1904 Zweisimmen.
T. 30 May 1887
Johannes Fahrni
Anna Thomann von Faulensee
~ 7/21 Mar.1841 in Unterlangenegg, Schwarzenegg distr. canton Bern, Switzerl
~ 20/29 Nov.1835 in Spiez, canton Bern
r. Unterlangenegg & Zweisimmen
oo 3 Feb.1870 Zweisimmen BE
p. Schreiner/Fuhrmann, carpenter, transporter
T. 14 Mar.1914 in Zweisimmen (accident in Saanen)
T. 5 Jun.1914 in Zweisimmen
Christian Thomann
Maria W.Bergmann
~ 7 Feb.1862 Spiez
~ 4 Feb.1864,Dresden,
Emigrated to German in Abt 1885
oo 1886 Dresden Saxony
Johann Thomann
Elisa Fahrni
~ 28 Mar.1870, Zweisimmen
T.1870
Johannes Fahrni
~ 23 Dec.1871, Zweisimmen, Switzerland
Resident of Saanen in 1894
T. 18 Dec.1904, Zweisimmen
Anna Elisa Fahrni
Karl Tochtermann
~ 2/14 Aug.1873 in Zweisimm
~ 1862 Zweisimmen
oo 3 Nov.1894 Zweisimmen
T.1953 Wohlen
T.1944 Zweisimmen
Fahrni & Anna Thomann
Gottfried Fahrni Sr
1) Ida Marie Fischer
~4 Jan.1876, Zweisimmen, Switzerland
~ 11 Mar.1880 in Wuhsen. Saxony
p. carpenter
oo 12.4.1897 Zweisimmen
Emigrated to Germany in 1907
Div. 22 Jun.1907 in Blankenburg, Switz.
p. transporter in Meissen
(2)Hedwiga Szwed Polucha
~ 8 Aug.1881 Lukow Zamosc, Poland
For Polucha tree
p. farmer in Nimtitz, Ottendorf, Merzdorf in Saxony
Emigrated to Germany abt 1914
oo 30 May 1919 in Meissen, Saxony
T.18 Oct.1955 in Jahnsdorf, Saxony, East Germany
1955 Fled to West Germany
T. 25 Nov.1968 in Erkrath, W.Germany
Adolf Fahrni
Minna A. Fehrmann
~26 Oct.1877, Zweisimmen, Switzerland
~ 31 Jul.1876 Semmelsberg, Saxony, Germany
Emigrated to Germany abt 1902
T. 22 May 1943, Leisnig,Saxony
oo 14 Oct.1902, Meissen, Saxony
T.19 Jan.1971, Basel
Karolina Fahrni
~ 29 Sep.1879 Zweisimmen
T. 1893

Generation 9C, Johannes Fahrni lines

Johannes Fahrni was the last child of Christian Fahrni and Magdalena Kneubuhl. He was born on 7th March in Unterlangenegg and baptized on 21st March 1841 in the Reformed district church of Schwarzenegg (BRO1Eriz379). Johannes' Godfather was his half-brother, Johann-Christian, who later became his guardian after the death of their father. His Godmothers were Anna Kneubuhl, his mother's sister, and Katharina Stegmann-Oesch from nearby Dachsegg.



Baptism of Johannes Fahrni, 21.3.1841.

The Schwarzenegg church was built in 1693, to make churchgoing easier for the inhabitants of the Eriz Valley. As Sunday church attendance was then compulsory for at least one household member, walking 15 km over rough paths to Steffisburg was a hardship, especially during winter snowstorms. Schwarzenegg reduced the churchgoing distance by half. However, the main reason for building this new church was, first and foremost, to better observe the prominent Anabaptists living in the Eriz valley. Like all churches, Schwarzenegg had a "Chorgericht", a Tribunal of Morality, whose task was to regulate reformed church doctrines, which included identifying and arresting Anabaptists.



Schwarzenegg church

As happened so often in the past to our direct Fahrni family lineage, Johannes had the misfortune of losing his father when he was barely two months old. His father, Christian the carpenter, fell to his death in May 1841, while doing roof timberwork in Thun. His mother, Magdalena Fahrni-Kneubuhl, remarried soon after in order to have a stepfather in the house for her three remaining children, especially baby Johannes, but also Friedrich (8) and Peter (11).

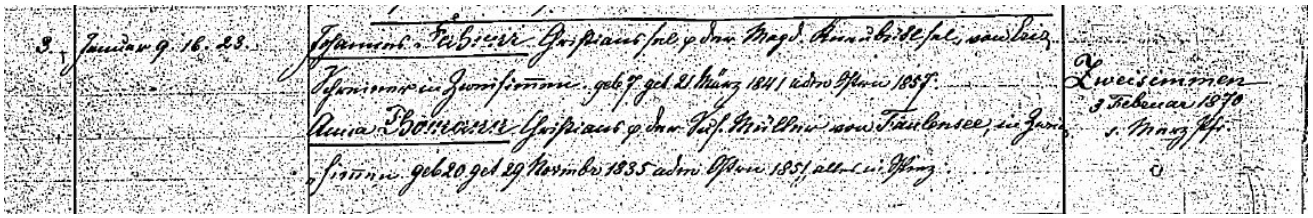
These were difficult times for Magdalena Fahrni, having lost her husband in addition to a 3-year-old boy and a 6-year-old daughter within the 1840 to 1843 time span. In January, 1845, tragedy reached the climax of the unbearable when ill fortune dealt another blow to the three boys. Their own mother, Magdalena Fahrni, suddenly passed away with Typhus fever. What happened from then on to the three orphaned Fahrni boys, Johannes (now 4), Friedrich (12) and Peter (15), is not much documented. Only Peter revealed years later to the press of New Philadelphia that : "after the death in Zweisimmen of my mother, Magdalena Fahrni-Kneubuhl, I left school to learn the trade of cigar making". When he made this declaration to the media, Peter was a well-known businessperson in the USA and owner of a cigar factory in New Philadelphia.

The fact of having lost both their parents within a timescale of four years was a tragedy, but the three orphans came from a long line of wealthy Fahrni families. Their father, Christian, had possessed over 80 hectares of land with farmhouses and forests, as can be seen from the succession documents. Part of this wealth would one day help each one of them to start their adult life. To this end, half-brother Johann Christian Fahrni took care, as the legal guardian, to set up the notarized succession arrangements for the three boys. The reason why Johann Christian had prearranged for the inheritance documents in favor of his three half-brothers made sense; he had already planned to emigrate to the USA in summer of 1845, only a few months after the death of their mother. Johann Christian's sister, Suzanne Kneubuhl-Fahrni, would also join him in New Philadelphia, Ohio, in 1851, and so would half-brother Peter one year later.

As three of the Fahrni siblings were to emigrate to America and most aunts and uncles were deceased, one can wonder who took care of four-year-old Johannes as of 1845. As the answer to this question did not transpire down the family line, a few family members can be considered that may have taken care of Johannes, namely his half-sister, Suzanne Kneubuhl-Fahrni, but only until 1851 when she left for the USA. Other possibilities are: his aunt, Elizabeth Stahli-Fahrni; his half-sister, Rosina Klauenbosch-Fahrni; or his Godmother, Anna Kneubuhl. We will never know, but we can assume that Johannes was brought up in a good family environment as a young orphan, considering his professional and personal achievements in later life.

The name of four-year-old Johannes Fahrni appears in the estate settlement contract, dated 6 February, 1845, and registered under (Thun B172/640-647), dealing with the succession of the land and properties available following the death of his mother, Magdalena. The inheritance procedure was under the control of Johannes' guardian and half-brother, Johann Christian Fahrni. Unfortunately, no further documents on the de facto distribution of these 80 hectares of land and assets could be found. Also, research did not yield any details on the life and whereabouts of Johannes Fahrni as an adolescent.

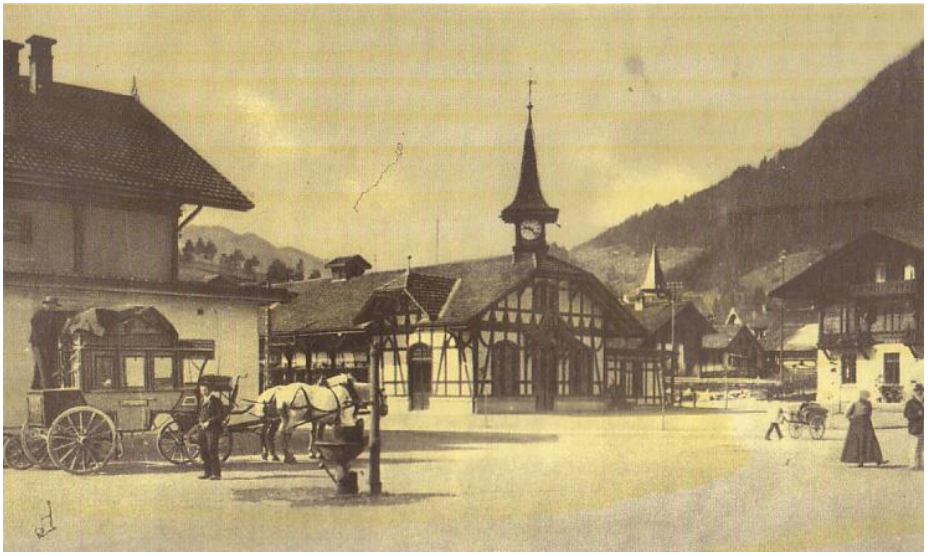
Johannes Fahrni reappears in our data 25 years later, on the 3rd February 1870 in the town of Zweisimmen. He is a 29-year-old-man when he marries 35-year-old Anna Thomann. (K17Schw066 & BRO01 & Eriz379).



Wedding registration of Johannes Fahrni and Anna Thomann

Johannes was a carpenter when he married Anna Thomann in Zweisimmen, which should confirm our assumption that he was brought up by close family, having learned the traditional Fahrni woodwork trade in Unterlangenegg. At an unknown date, Johannes decided to leave Unterlangenegg to settle on the other side of Lake Thun, about 60 km southwest, in the village of Zweisimmen.

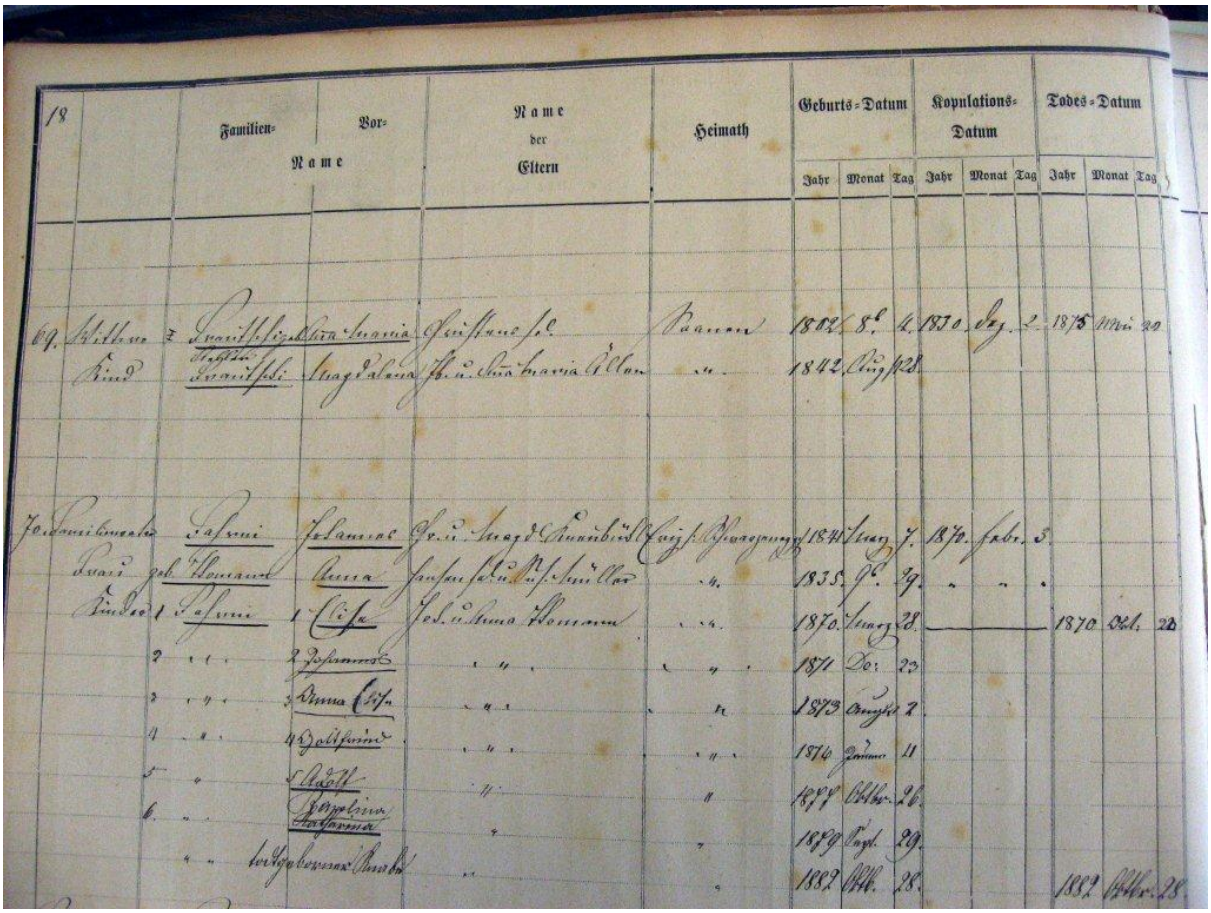
The village of Zweisimmen in mid-19th Century.



Considering that Anna Thomann was originally from Spiez, on the shore of Lake Thun, and that she had given birth to her illegitimate son, Christian Thomann, in 1862 in that same town, it can be assumed that she had met Johannes Fahrni sometime after 1862. It is, therefore, very likely that Johannes and Anna moved to Zweisimmen, either together or separately, between 1863 and 1869.

In the 1860's, the village of Zweisimmen was basically involved in cattle farming and agriculture, like most of the surrounding areas in this valley of Obersimmental. Zweisimmen is also 16 km away from Gstaad, the village that became the world famous luxury ski resort in early 20th century. The proximity of the two villages generated a parallel touristic development in favour of Zweisimmen, offering many hotels and reputed walking trails.

Johannes Fahrni and Anna Thomann are the progenitors of the Swiss Fahrni lines. They had seven children together, all born in Zweisimmen, as shown below.



As mentioned earlier, Anna Thomann had an eight-year-old illegitimate son when she married Johannes in 1870. This boy became, obviously, part of the family as he appeared in the succession documents. In 1885, Christian Thomann emigrated to Saxony and got married the following year in Dresden.

The first child Johannes Fahrni and Anna Thomann had together was **Elise Fahrni**, born in March of 1870, but she died in October of the same year. **Johannes Fahrni,** Junior, was their second child, born in December of 1871. Johannes died at the age of 33 years when he lived, unmarried, in nearby Saanen. **Anna Elisa Fahrni** was born in August of 1873. She married Karl Tochtermann in 1894; together, they were the progenitors of the Tochtermann lineages. **Gottfried Fahrni** was born in January of 1876. At the age of 21, still living in Zweisimmen, Gottfried married Ida Marie Fischer, originally from Saxony. They divorced ten years later, in 1907, following which Gottfried emigrated to Saxony to join his brother and half-brother already settled there. During 1915, Gottfried met Jadwiga Polucha, of Polish origin. They had three children together, thereby becoming the progenitors of the Swiss and German lineages. **Adolf Fahrni** was born in 1877; he emigrated to Saxony at the age of 25 to join his half-brother. There, he married Minna Fehrmann; they became the progenitors of the second Swiss and German lineages. **Karolina Fahrni** was born in 1879 and died as a 14-year-old girl in 1893. The life story of the three surviving abovementioned male descendants will be described under generation 10.

Prior to his relocation to Zweisimmen, Johannes Fahrni most certainly sold the land he inherited from his parents in Unterlangenegg. Unfortunately, no trace of such transactions could be found in Unterlangenegg, nor could we find documents detailing the first land/house purchases of Johannes in Zweisimmen. Four years after his wedding with Anna Thomann, Johannes purchased a plot of grazing land, named “Eggetli”. The seller of this 1 ½ Jucharten surface of land (about 7’500 m2) was a Mr Joh. Schmocker; the transaction was registered under (Grundbuchampt Blankenburg and Zweisimmen B300, pages 25 & 48), dated 17 February 1874.

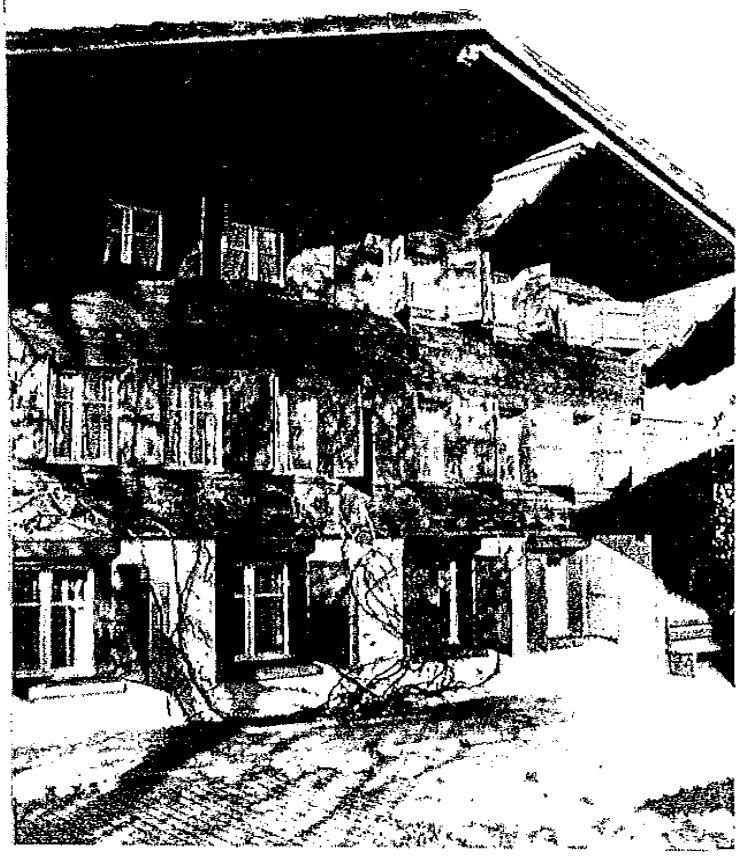
It is in 1878 that Johannes Fahrni-Thomann purchased the residence at the Muhlegasse 4, in central Zweisimmen. The seller was a member of the Zweisimmen Municipality "Gemeinderat", Mr Emanuel Knori-Eggen. Johannes paid Sfr.6'600.- (about Sfr.80'000.- current value) for this three-story house. The purchase was duly registered under: (Grundbuchampt Blankenburg-Zweisimmen B309/503 ff) Plot 227, dated 4 November 1878.

Gemeinde	Amt	Strasse / Nr.	Geb.-Nr.
Zweisimmen	OS	Mühlegasse 4	
Ort	Koord.	Eigentümer/in	Parz.-Nr.
		Kronen Areal AG	227

Ehem. Bauernhaus, Kern wohl A. 17. Jh., Umbauten 19. / 20. Jh.
Regionaltypisch konstruierter Mischbau mit leicht ungleichseltiger Fassadlerung und abgesetzter Mittelverkämmung. Geschossvorkrage, im Gaden auf schlichtem Konsol- oder Würfelfries. Durchlaufende Gadenfensterbank mit einzelner Abtreppung. Wandpfetten- und Zufirstkonsolen mit spätgotischen Halbrund-Ausschnitten unter gezackten Pfettenenden, während bei der bauchigen Firstkonsole der Frühbarock anklingt. Wohl um 1900 wurde das Sockelgeschoss ausgebaut und gleichmässig befenstert und die Fassade wurde mit Einzelfenstern erneuert. Die seitl. Laubenbereiche wurden unter Schleppgaupen geschlossen. Trotz grösseren Veränderungen, ansprechender, giebelständiger Bau, der als einziges Gebäude an der ruhigen, zentralen Mühlegasse unterhalb des Kirchhügels an das alte bäuerliche Zweisimmen erinnert (Baugruppe Dorf).

Bewertung ☐ schützenswert

This typical 17th century house, in the chalet-architectural style, depicts a mixture of late Gothic and early Barock shapes on its two façades, looking on Muhlegasse, in central Zweisimmen. Despite 19th C. transformations of adding new single window openings, the house is on the town's list of protected buildings.



The old Fahrni house is a reminiscence of the soul of old Zweisimmen



The old Fahrni house at the Muhlegasse 4, plot number 227, in Zweisimmen, is still standing in its original external structure. This 17th century farmhouse is a unique survivor in Zweisimmen, with its traditional design elements. It now contains three luxury apartments, one on each floor. Severe building regulations ensure the safeguard of local timber-built houses with traditional outside paneling such as the old Fahrni house. The house is on the town's conservation list and has the status of protected buildings. It is estimated that, today, the property is worth over two million Swiss francs.



The other façade of the old Fahrni house at the Muhlegasse 4, Zweisimmen.

Towards the end of 1878, the Fahrni-Thomann family moved into their dream house with their five young children. But the size of this three-story-house was far larger than the space required for the family. The reason is that in those days a family house also accommodated the area needed for the business activities of the owner. And we have confirmation that Johannes added a new trade when moving to the Muhlegasse. Johannes was a carpenter when he got married in 1870, like during his land transactions of 1873 and 1874. However, eight years later, the purchase documents of the above house indicate that he was also a transporter. Furthermore, when he purchased the 2 ½ hectares of "Lischen" pastureland, in 1893, he was, in addition, also a cheese maker.

A closer look at the description of the Muhlegasse house indicates that a stable for horses with a coach-house; a barn and a hayloft were attached to the structure. Also, when analyzing the 1914 inheritance document, the Fahrni house contained a long list of special tools and machinery typical of a woodwork and carpentry workshop. The list also mentions many buckets, a weigh-bridge and weighing scales and other equipment needed for the cheese-making and diary business. However, the largest quantity of items and equipment left behind point to the horses and transport business, such as wagon wheels, old carrying vehicles and several sledges for winter-time transport. This is understandably why, as of 1895 until his death, all official references to Johannes Fahrni were exclusively made as current or retired "Fuhrhalter", the term meaning transporter.

To make sense of it all, it should not be forgotten that, by 1893, there were four active men participating in the Fahrni businesses. Johannes the father, aged 52, was now assisted by his sons Johannes, junior, (age 22), Gottfried (17), and Adolf (16). The best interpretation of the scanty information available on this period suggest that, as time went by, both Gottfried and Adolf took charge of the more physically demanding transport activities in Zweisimmen.

The Fahrni businesses looked to have been doing well, as Johannes, senior, purchased, that same year, another 2 ½ hectares of pastureland on the outskirt of Zweiswimmen. This pastureland, named "Lischen" ,which had a barn, was sold by a Salomon Ziorien. The sale was registered under (Grundbuchampt Blankenburg - Zweisimmen B312, page 401) dated 16 April 1893. The above purchase also indicates that Johannes remained active and in good health.

By the turn of the century, Johannes was 60 years old and slowing down. We can assume that, by then, he was only taking care of the diary and carpentry businesses. Some years later, by 1902, our 25-year-old Adolf Fahrni decided to move to Saxony (where his half-brother Christian was already settled) and start the Fahrni transport business of his own in booming Meissen. Five years later, in 1907, Gottfried would follow suit and associate himself with his brother in the already existing transport business in Saxony.

After 1907, Johannes Fahrni and his wife Anna, now respectively 66 and 72 years old, were living alone in their Muhlegasse house. Their three sons had emigrated to Saxony and the eldest son, Johannes, had died three years before. Their daughter Anna-Elisa was married and, with children of her own.

Strangely enough, two years later, at the age of 68, Johannes sold the large "Lischen" pastureland to a Jakob Teuscher from Diemtigen. This transaction is registered under (Grundbuchampt Blankenburg – Zweisimmen B323, page 347,) dated 8 October 1909. Here it is legitimate to ask why one would sell land when one does not need the money. Johannes had retired and lived comfortably with his wife Anna in their beautiful three-story house at the Muhlegasse. In view of what happened later, the assumption is now that Johannes made the sale of this land because of family pressure. His remaining child, Anna Elisa, still lived nearby and her son-in-law Tochtermann required the money. Later, this same daughter illegally confiscated her father's wealth and assets by disinheriting her three brothers living in Saxony, which will be demonstrated later.

Anna Elisa's disloyalty towards her brothers got worse when, in May of 1913, her husband, Karl Tochtermann, suddenly obtained tutorial power over his father-in-law. In June of that same year, Tochtermann Karl declared to the authorities that the assets of Johannes Fahrni amounted to Sfr.17'543.- (Gemeinderatsprotokoll Zweisimmen, Band 624, page 198).

As the legal guardian of Johannes Fahrni, his son-in-law Tochtermann, saddler by profession, took immediate steps to put up for auction the Fahrni properties. The Fahrni primary residence at the Muhlegasse 4, and its content, was sold on 14 July 1913 to the owner of the Hotel Krone in Zweisimmen, for Sfr.16'210.-. (Grundbuchampt Blankenburg, page 1/501). The sale contracts of the other plots of land belonging to Johannes Fahrni-Thomann could not be found. After the sale, Johannes Fahrni and his wife, Anna, then respectively 72 and 78 , moved to live in the house of their daughter, Anna Elisa, and her husband. For the upkeep of his parents-in-law, Karl Tochtermann had the effrontery, through his notary, to ask for a daily payment of Sfr.5. (Gemeinderatsprotokoll, Band 624, page209).

On 14th of March 1914, Johannes Fahrni was found, without life, on the railway crossing of nearby Saanen. Johannes often went for long walks in the region and he seems to have had a heart attack. Following the death of her husband, Anna Fahrni-Thomann was made to agree to a proposed last will, dated 31 May 1914. The inheritance contract, at hand, clearly states that the proceeds of the Fahrni house and land sales are to be distributed in four equal parts in favor of the four children, namely Anna Elisa, and the three sons (Zweisimmen archives no.39 & 25 page 247).

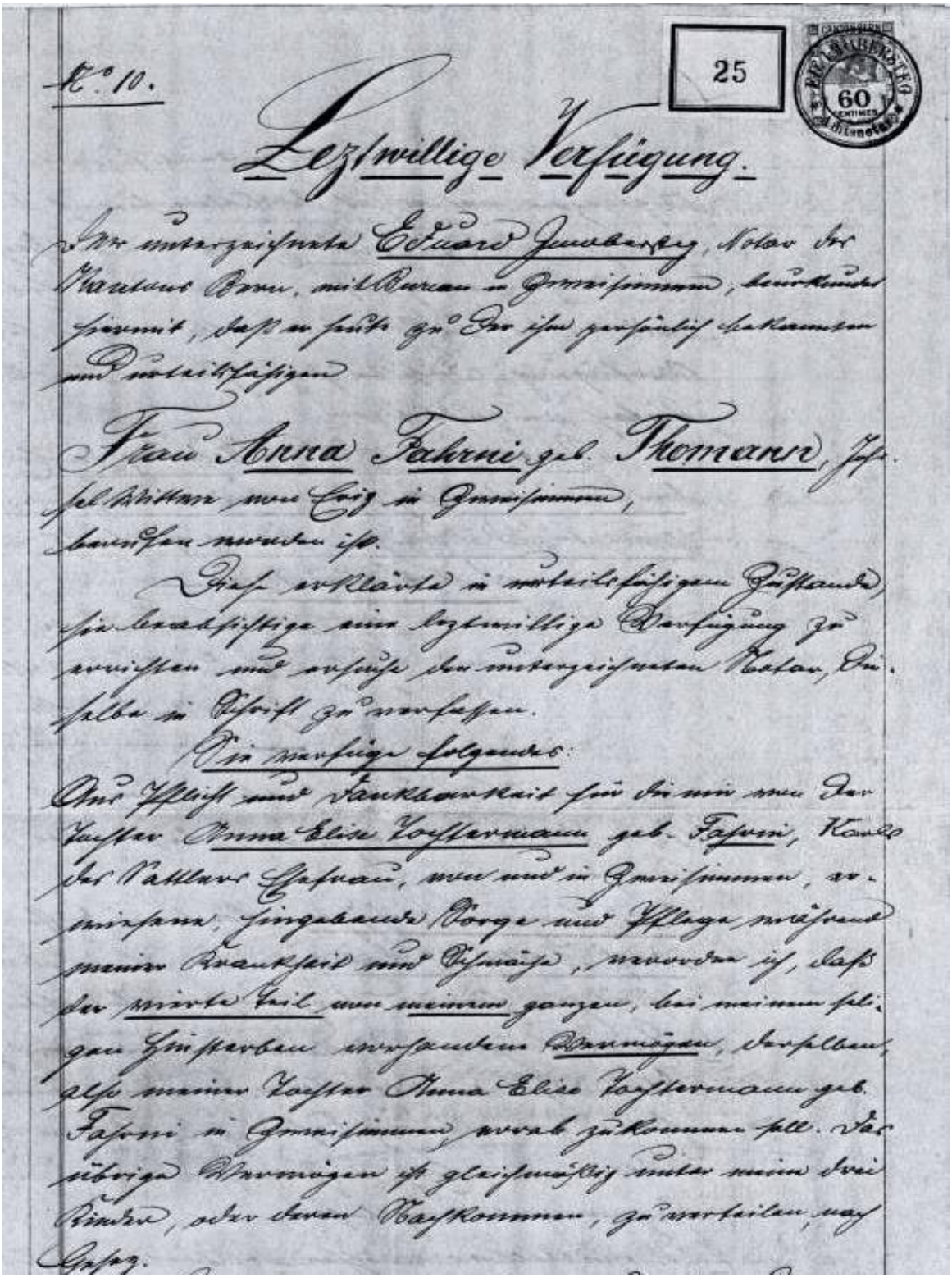
An inheritance contract is always accompanied by a distribution of the assets contract, allocating the various items and cash amounts to each of the inheritors. There exists such a distribution of assets document, dated 8 June 1914 (Gemeinderatsprotokoll 624, page 251), but it is incomplete. More to the point, the document states that the three sons were living in a foreign country and that their addresses were unknown. This assertion was a blatant lie as we have evidence that Gottfried, Senior, was in sporadic postal communication with the family in Zweisimmen. It stands to reason to conclude that the fact of withholding the knowledge of the three brothers' physical address in Saxony is proof of intent to do wrong. The document states that 78-year-old Anna Fahrni-Thomann had been paralyzed for many years. The document further mentions that Anna Fahrni declared that, due to her ill health, she could not read, nor would she agree to sign the contract. These facts put in doubt the truthfulness of the claim that Anna Elisa did not know the addresses of her brothers.

The research in the Archives of Zweisimmen, Blankenburg and Bern shed some light on what really happened. Surprisingly, the very document of distribution of assets was never completed. The above raises, understandably, the question we cannot escape. What happened to the inheritance money? To some, it may seem provocative to assert that the assets distribution contract was intentionally buried and forgotten with the notary of Zweisimmen. In so doing, it opened the door for Tochtermann and his wife to unlawfully acquire the totality of the inheritance money, in violation of the contract.

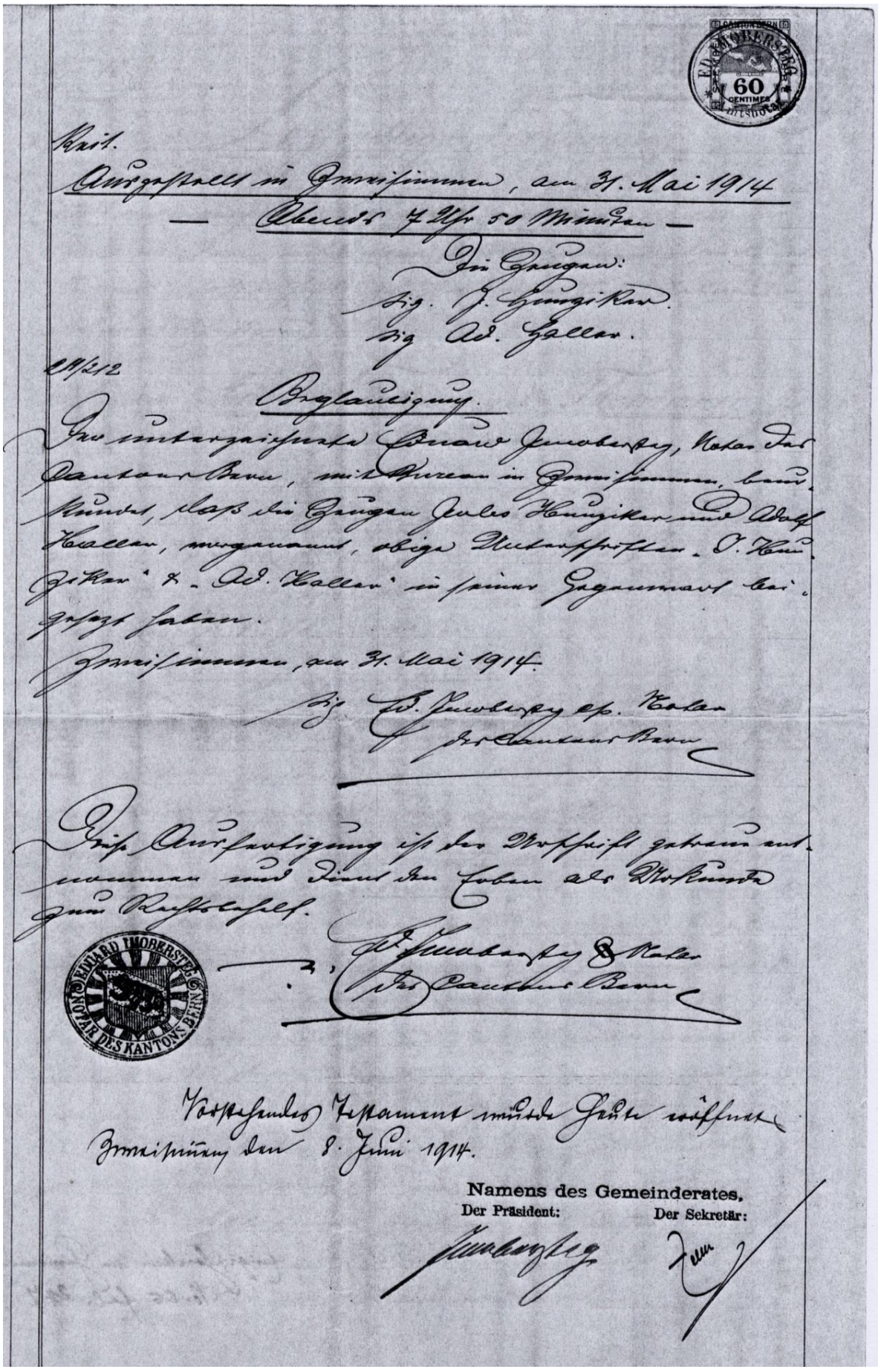
1913.06.17 VERSTEIGERUNG DER BEWEGLICHKEITEN

Herr Karl Tochtermann, Sattlermeister in Zweisimmen, als Vogt des Johann Fahrni-Thomann, wohnhaft ann der Mühlegasse daselbst hat Donnerstag den 19. Juni 1913 von Morgens 8 Uhr an beim Hause der Puppillen die

Anzahl	Artikel	Preis	Anzahl	Artikel	Preis
1	Hobelbank	10.50	1	Pumpe	2.50
1	Wetzsteinfass	0.20		verschiedene Klöfli?	0.50
4	Sägen	1.00	1	Kirschbaumleiter	0.80
4	Steckeisen	5.00	1	Schlitten	1.00
1	Schleifstein	2.00	2	Hefekasten	1.50
2	Ziehmesser	1.70	1	Schlitten	2.00
3	Klammen	1.90	1	Jauchebütti	2.50
1	Bohrer	0.20	2	Jüsi?	2.00
1	Melchter (Johann Egger)	0.80	1	Emailkessel	0.70
1	Hufmesser	0.50	1	Häckerligmaschine	20.00
1	Alte Seile	0.30		Grümpel in der Remise	2.00
1	Dezimalwaage	10.00	1	Grienkasten	0.50
1	Schaufel	0.30	1	Bänne	2.00
1	Kübel	0.30	2	Schlitten	1.00
1	Fuss….	2.50	1	Rennschlitten	5.00
1	Eisenhafen	1.50		Wagnerholz	10.00
1	Schlitten	5.10		Brennholz	15.20
1	Vorstuhl	1.50		Gern..gel?	1.00
1	Hutte mit altem Eisen	3.00	1	Redig mit 2 Rädern	4.20
1	alter Eisenofen	2.00	2	Räder	10.00
2	Hobel	1.20	2	Eisenachsen	1.00
2	Holzgeschirr	0.60		verschiedene Räder	3.00
1	Hutte	0.40	1	Tangelstein	1.50
2	Holzgeschirre	0.20	3	Hinterredig	6.70
1	Riemli	0.10	1	Vorderredig	3.70
1	Schrote	0.20	3	alte Mechaniken	2.00
1	Karst	1.40	1	Ruhebett	15.00
1	Pickel	1.00	1	Ruhebett	2.50
1	Gabel	0.30	1	Kohleneisen	0.60
1	Schaufel	0.30	1	Ruhbettgestell	1.00
	Werkzeug	0.50	1	Sprigkasten?	2.00
1	Zuschlaghammer	1.60	1	Laterne	0.50
	verschiedene Eisenmesser	1.00	1	Pinte	0.50
2	Mechaniken	1.00		verschiedenes Blechgeschirr	0.70
1	Korb	0.30		verschiedene Deckel	0.30
2	Waagen	1.50		Kachelgeschirr	2.00
1	Topf	0.10	1	Tisch	2.90
	alter Werkzeug	1.10	1	Stabelle	1.00
	Krüge	0.50		verschiedene Stabellen	1.20
3	Holzgabeln	0.20	1	Sessel	1.40
1	Heuschrote	0.70	1	Aktenschrank	14.50
1	Kübel	0.10	1	Wäscheseil	1.50
	Ferlen?	0.60	1	Spiegel	2.60
1	Hafen	0.50	2	Sessel	6.60



Sie verfüge folgendes: Aus Pflicht und dankbarkeit für die mir von der Tochter Anna Elisa Tochtermann geborene Fahrni, Karls des Sattlers Ehefrau von und in Zweisimmen, erwiesene hingebende Sorge und Pflege während meiner Krankheit und Schwäche, verordne ich, dass **der vierte Teil von meinem ganzen, bei meinem seligen Hinsterben vorhandene Vermögen derselben, also meiner Tochter Anna Elise Tochtermann geborene Fahrni in Zweisimmen, vorab zukommen soll. Das übrige Vermögen ist gleichmässig unter meine drei Kinder oder deren Nachkommen zu verteilen, nach Gesetz.** **8 Juni 1914**



Amt.

Ausgestellt in Gmünen, am 31. Mai 1914
— Abends 7 Uhr 50 Minuten —

Die Zeugen:
Sig. J. Jungiker.
Sig Ad. Haller.

Beglaubigung.

Der unterzeichnete Notar Jenzer, Notar des Kantons Bern, mit Amtssitz in Gmünen, beurkundet, dass die Zeugen Jules Jungiker und Adolf Haller, wohnhaft, obige Unterschriften J. Jungiker's & Ad. Haller's in seiner Gegenwart beigesetzt haben.

Gmünen, am 31. Mai 1914.

Sig. L. Jenzer, Not. Notar
des Amtes Bern

Diese Ausfertigung ist der Wahrheit gemäss entworfen und dient den Erben als Urkunde zum Rechtsschutz.

L. Jenzer, Notar
des Amtes Bern

Vorstehendes Testament wurde heute eröffnet.
Gmünen den 8. Juni 1914.

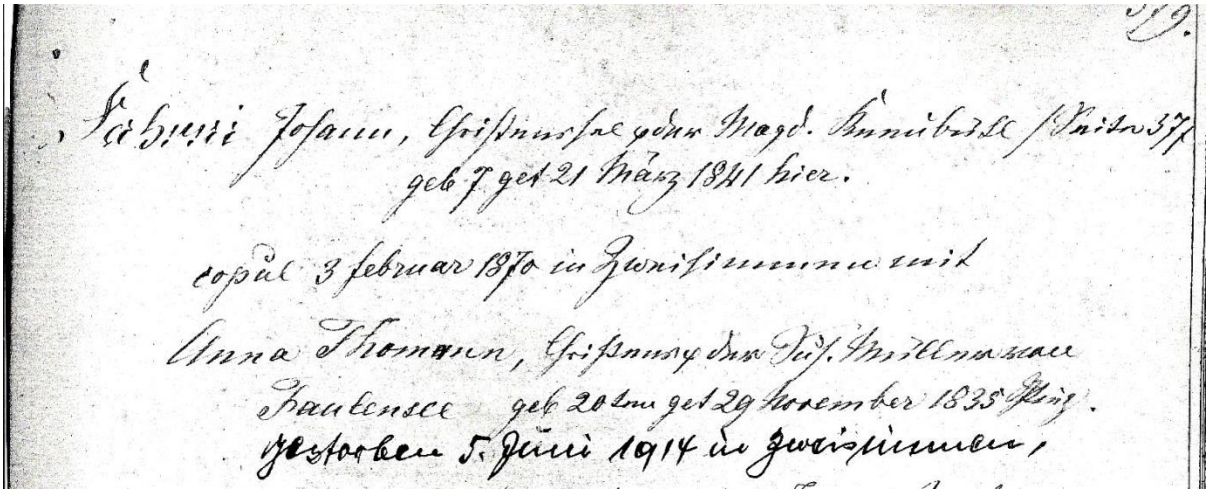
Namens des Gemeinderates.
Der Präsident: Der Sekretär:

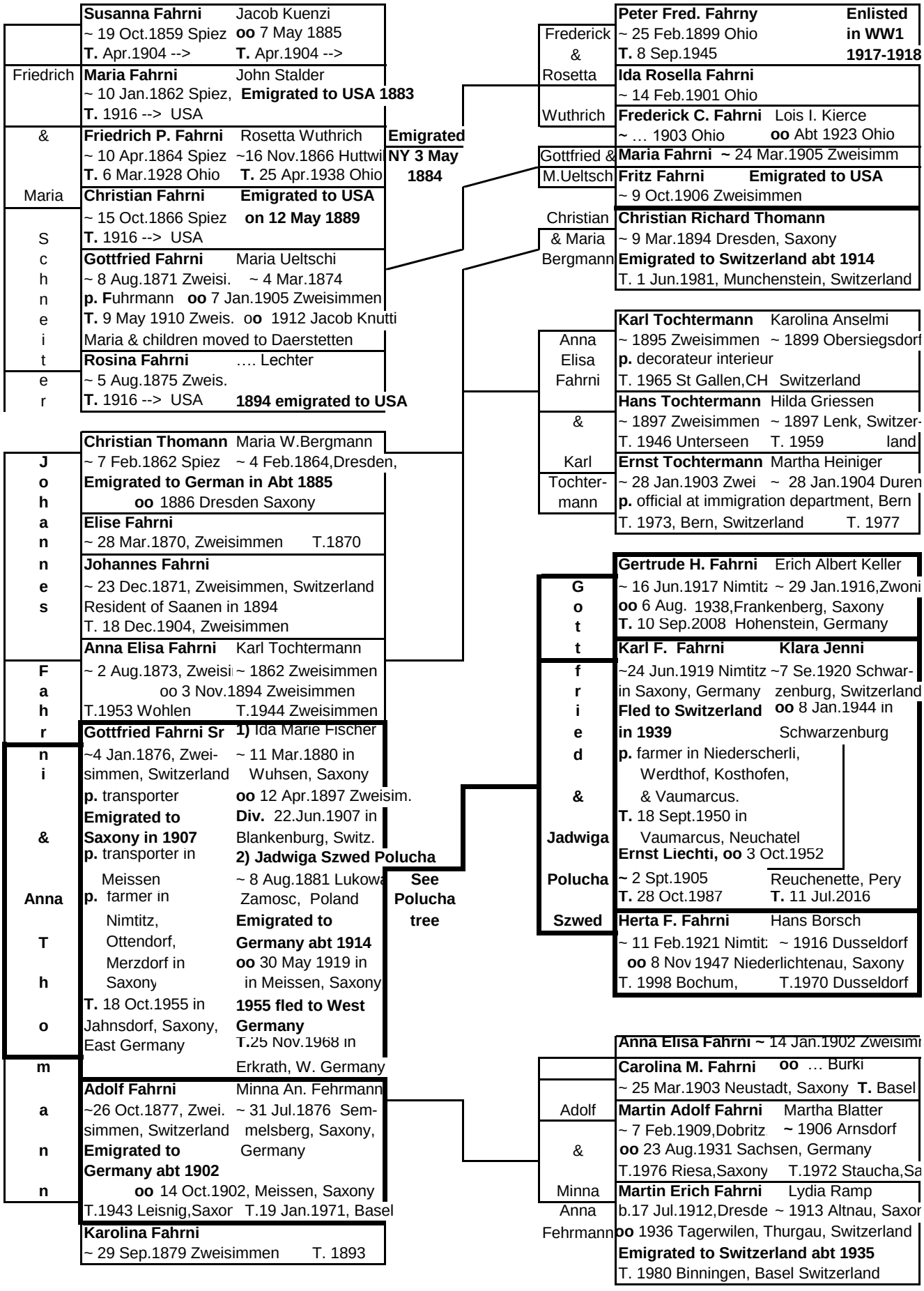
As the period in question was the beginning of the First World War, it could be acceptable that the deaths of Johannes Fahrni and wife Anna, as well as the inheritance arrangements, had not been immediately transmitted to the three inheritors in Saxony. Then, as the years went by and the war had ended, it was quite convenient, in their crooked minds, that the matter be simply forgotten. Sometime later, with the probable complicity of the notary, the total inheritance amounting to over Sfr.20'000.- (Sfr.300'000.- in 2016 value) was illegally acquired by Karl Tochtermann and his wife, Anna Elisa Fahrni. This dubious Tochtermann-Fahrni couple deserves nothing but contempt.

This action of misappropriating the inheritance money of the three Fahrni brothers was a felony under Swiss law. It was also, and remains to this date, a distasteful betrayal by Anna Elisa Fahrni-Tochtermann of her three blood-related brothers. One cannot help thinking that, had our great-grandfather Johannes Fahrni-Thomann known what happened to his possessions, he would have chuckled in his grave.

Death registration in the archives of Eriz.

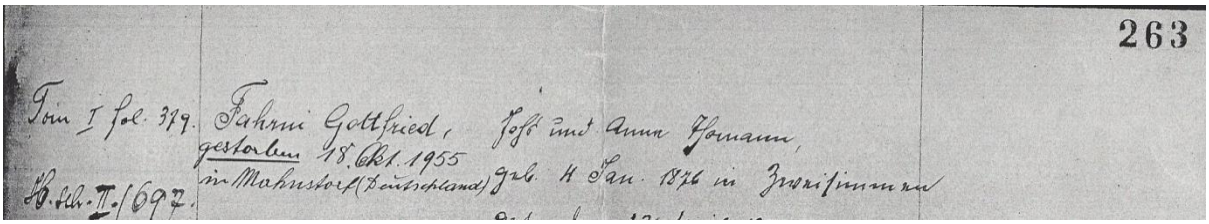
Fahrni Johannes, son of Christian and Magdalena Kneubuhl,
baptized on 21 March 1841,
married on 3 February 1870 in Zweisimmen with
Anna Thomann, daughter of Christian and Suzanna Muller.
Johannes Fahrni died on Saturday 14 March 1914.
Anna Fahrni died on 5 June 1914 in Zweisimmen.




Susanna Fahrni Jacob Kuenzi
~ 19 Oct.1859 Spiez oo 7 May 1885
T. Apr.1904 --> T. Apr.1904 -->
Friedrich Maria Fahrni John Stalder
~ 10 Jan.1862 Spiez, Emigrated to USA 1883
T. 1916 --> USA
&
Friedrich P. Fahrni Rosetta Wuthrich
~ 10 Apr.1864 Spiez ~16 Nov.1866 Huttwi
T. 6 Mar.1928 Ohio T. 25 Apr.1938 Ohio
Maria
Christian Fahrni Emigrated to USA
~ 15 Oct.1866 Spiez on 12 May 1889
T. 1916 --> USA
Gottfried Fahrni Maria Ueltschi
~ 8 Aug.1871 Zweisi. ~ 4 Mar.1874
p. Fuhrmann oo 7 Jan.1905 Zweisimmen
T. 9 May 1910 Zweis. oo 1912 Jacob Knutti
Maria & children moved to Daerstetten
Rosina Fahrni …. Lechter
~ 5 Aug.1875 Zweis.
T. 1916 --> USA 1894 emigrated to USA
Emigrated NY 3 May 1884
Christian Thomann Maria W.Bergmann
~ 7 Feb.1862 Spiez ~ 4 Feb.1864,Dresden,
Emigrated to German in Abt 1885
oo 1886 Dresden Saxony
Johannes Fahrni
~ 23 Dec.1871, Zweisimmen, Switzerland
Resident of Saanen in 1894
T. 18 Dec.1904, Zweisimmen
Anna Elisa Fahrni Karl Tochtermann
~ 2 Aug.1873, Zweisi ~ 1862 Zweisimmen
oo 3 Nov.1894 Zweisimmen
T.1953 Wohlen T.1944 Zweisimmen
Gottfried Fahrni Sr 1) Ida Marie Fischer
~4 Jan.1876, Zwei- ~ 11 Mar.1880 in
simmen, Switzerland Wuhsen, Saxony
p. transporter oo 12 Apr.1897 Zweisim.
Emigrated to Div. 22.Jun.1907 in
Saxony in 1907 Blankenburg, Switz.
p. transporter in 2) Jadwiga Szwed Polucha
Meissen ~ 8 Aug.1881 Lukowa
p. farmer in Zamosc, Poland
Nimtitz, Emigrated to
Ottendorf, Germany abt 1914
Merzdorf in oo 30 May 1919 in
Saxony in Meissen, Saxony
T. 18 Oct.1955 in 1955 fled to West
Jahnsdorf, Saxony, Germany
East Germany T.25 Nov.1968 in
Erkrath, W. Germany
See Polucha tree
Adolf Fahrni Minna An. Fehrmann
~26 Oct.1877, Zwei. ~ 31 Jul.1876 Sem-
simmen, Switzerland melsberg, Saxony,
Emigrated to Germany
Germany abt 1902
oo 14 Oct.1902, Meissen, Saxony
T.1943 Leisnig,Saxor T.19 Jan.1971, Basel
Karolina Fahrni
~ 29 Sep.1879 Zweisimmen T. 1893
Frederick & Rosetta Wuthrich
Peter Fred. Fahrny Enlisted in WW1
~ 25 Feb.1899 Ohio 1917-1918
T. 8 Sep.1945
Ida Rosella Fahrni
~ 14 Feb.1901 Ohio
Frederick C. Fahrni Lois I. Kierce
~ … 1903 Ohio oo Abt 1923 Ohio
Gottfried & M.Ueltsch
Maria Fahrni ~ 24 Mar.1905 Zweisimm
Fritz Fahrni Emigrated to USA
~ 9 Oct.1906 Zweisimmen
Christian & Maria Bergmann
Christian Richard Thomann
~ 9 Mar.1894 Dresden, Saxony
Emigrated to Switzerland abt 1914
T. 1 Jun.1981, Munchenstein, Switzerland
Anna Elisa Fahrni
Karl Tochtermann Karolina Anselmi
~ 1895 Zweisimmen ~ 1899 Obersiegsdorf
p. decorateur interieur
T. 1965 St Gallen,CH Switzerland
Karl Tochtermann Hilda Griessen
~ 1897 Zweisimmen ~ 1897 Lenk, Switzer-
T. 1946 Unterseen T. 1959 land
Ernst Tochtermann Martha Heiniger
~ 28 Jan.1903 Zwei ~ 28 Jan.1904 Duren
p. official at immigration department, Bern
T. 1973, Bern, Switzerland T. 1977
Gertrude H. Fahrni Erich Albert Keller
~ 16 Jun.1917 Nimtitz ~ 29 Jan.1916,Zwoni
oo 6 Aug. 1938,Frankenberg, Saxony
T. 10 Sep.2008 Hohenstein, Germany
Karl F. Fahrni Klara Jenni
~24 Jun.1919 Nimtitz ~7 Se.1920 Schwar-
in Saxony, Germany zenburg, Switzerland
Fled to Switzerland oo 8 Jan.1944 in
in 1939 Schwarzenburg
p. farmer in Niederscherli,
Werdthof, Kosthofen,
& Vaumarcus.
T. 18 Sept.1950 in
Jadwiga Vaumarcus, Neuchatel
Ernst Liechti, oo 3 Oct.1952
Polucha ~ 2 Spt.1905 Reuchenette, Pery
T. 28 Oct.1987 T. 11 Jul.2016
Herta F. Fahrni Hans Borsch
~ 11 Feb.1921 Nimtitz ~ 1916 Dusseldorf
oo 8 Nov 1947 Niederlichtenau, Saxony
T. 1998 Bochum, T.1970 Dusseldorf
Anna Elisa Fahrni ~ 14 Jan.1902 Zweisimm
Carolina M. Fahrni oo … Burki
~ 25 Mar.1903 Neustadt, Saxony T. Basel
Adolf & Minna Anna Fehrmann
Martin Adolf Fahrni Martha Blatter
~ 7 Feb.1909,Dobritz ~ 1906 Arnsdorf
oo 23 Aug.1931 Sachsen, Germany
T.1976 Riesa,Saxony T.1972 Staucha,Sa
Martin Erich Fahrni Lydia Ramp
b.17 Jul.1912,Dresde ~ 1913 Altnau, Saxor
oo 1936 Tagerwilen, Thurgau, Switzerland
Emigrated to Switzerland abt 1935
T. 1980 Binningen, Basel Switzerland

Generation 10, Gottfried Fahrni Sr.

Gottfried Fahrni Senior was the fourth child of Johannes Fahrni and Anna Thomann. He was born on the 4th January 1876 in the village of Zweisimmen, in Obersimmental, canton Bern. (Archives of Eriz, Tom.1, fol.379, page 263).


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Tom I fol. 379. Fahrni Gottfried, Joh. und Anna Thomann,
gestorben 18.Okt.1955 in Mahnstorf (Deutschland) geb. 4 Jan. 1876 in Zweisimmen
Kb.Kr.II./697.

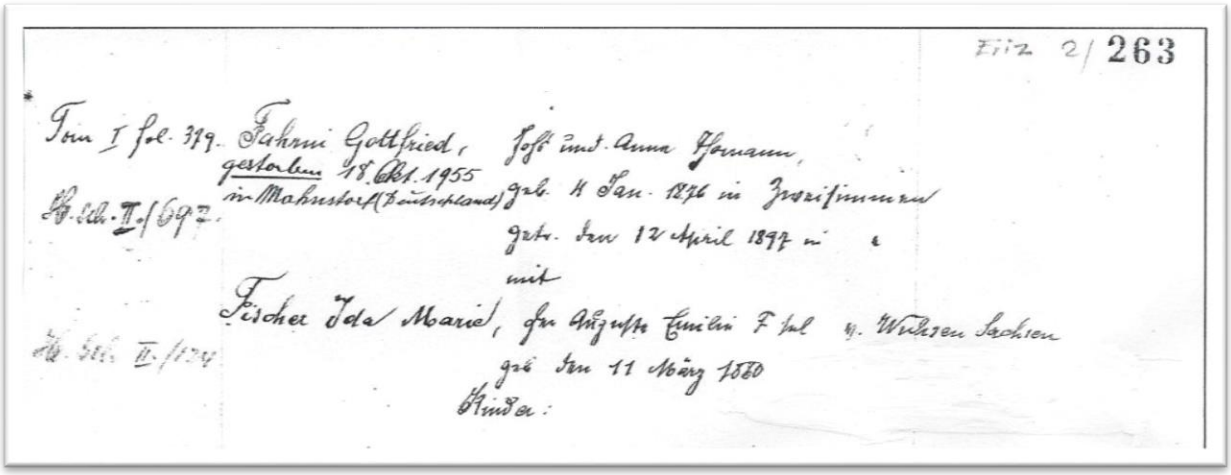
Gottfried was nearly three years old when his father purchased the Muhlegasse house in Zweisimmen, and he would spend his childhood and teen years and beyond in that same family house. It was a large three-storied house, but it needed to be large as it also accommodated the family businesses of transportation, cheese making and carpentry. Very early on in life, Gottfried was progressively taught how to deal in the trade of transportation. His father - but also his two elder brothers Christian and Johannes - were all partaking in this transfer of knowhow. Already as a very young child, Gottfried learned how to interact with the horses that were used for the transportation activities. Later, in his early teens, he began to participate in the family businesses with ever more important tasks such as saddle, feeding and cleaning the horses. He would also observe his father's regular activities and learn about carpentry and cheese making, and how to repair the broken wheels of the transport wagons.

In the early 19th century, Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi had founded the primary education system in Switzerland. Thanks in part to our pedagogue, the primary education was adapted to the needs of children living in rural areas, especially in farming villages with their harvesting periods. Traditionally, male children would be participating in their father's professional activities with the view of succeeding, one day, the family business. Therefore, school attendance had to be flexible and we can be certain that Gottfried went to his classes provided he was not needed to help out at home. From the age of 7 to 15, he was taught the subjects required to empower children to succeed in country life, such as the basics of reading and writing, arithmetic, Swiss history, geography and religion.

In 1893, Gottfried was 17 years old and in full employment in his father's businesses. A few years later, as his father was getting older, he would concentrate his activities exclusively on the more demanding transport activities, together with his two brothers Johannes and Adolf.

However, our grandfather-to-be, Gottfried Fahrni, was an ambitious young man and he understandably found his hometown of Zweisimmen too small. He had the dream to live in a more competitive environment, which led him to think about going to Saxony, where his half-brother, Christian Thomann, had settled about ten years earlier. It is most likely that Christian had started a transport business in Saxony and it makes sense to assume that the news he sent back to Zweisimmen were positive. In addition, what must have influenced Gottfried was the many other emigrations in the family in recent times. Both his uncles, Johann Christian and Peter Fahrni, had left Zweisimmen for America during the middle of the 19th century; and so did four of his cousins – the children of Friedrich – who all immigrated to New Philadelphia, Ohio, during the 1880's.

Fundamentally, the craft Gottfried knew best was the transport business, which he had learned from his father. Therefore, to all intent and purposes, he wanted to try his success in this same line of business in Saxony. It was in 1896 that twenty-year-old Gottfried visited his half-brother in Saxony. Surprisingly, Gottfried retuned to Zweisimmen after only a few months' stay with his half-brother. For some unknown reasons, he chose to return to Switzerland, but not alone. He returned home with a 17-year-old Saxon girl, Miss Ida Maria Fischer, whom he would marry on 12 April 1897 in Zweisimmen (Archives of Eriz Tom II, fol.124, p.263). Gottfried was 21 years old when he married.


Eriz 2/263

Tom I fol. 379. Fahrni Gottfried, Sohn und Anna Thomann,
gestorben 18. Okt. 1955 geb. 4 Jan. 1876 in Zweisimmen
in Mahnstorf (Deutschland)
Reg. Sch. II/692. get. den 12 April 1897 in
mit
Fischer Ida Maria, der Auguste Emilie F. tal v. Wilkau Sachsen
geb. den 11 März 1880
Kinder:
Reg. Sch. II/124

Family oral traditions indicate that Gottfried and his newlywed wife lived in the Fahrni house, in the Muhlegasse 4, as there was now ample room for them. Indeed, in 1897, two of his siblings were no longer living in the Fahrni family house; Johannes Jr. had moved to Saanen and Anna Elisa had married and lived not far away. Only Gottfried and wife, in addition to his younger brother Adolf, were sharing this large house with their parents, Anna and Johannes Fahrni. During the following five years, Gottfried would be running the family transportation activities together with his brother, until the time when Adolf also emigrated to Saxony, in 1902, to set up his own transport company.

After the departure of brother Adolf, Gottfried and wife were the only ones to live in the Muhlegasse with parents Johannes and Anna. We know that up until 1902, the Fahrni transport company was run as a family business, but it is most probable that outside help was then hired to replace departed Adolf. No information has dribbled down the family line on Gottfried's life during the 1902 to 1907 period. Arguably, he was running the transport business on his own, as his father was over 60 years old and no longer active professionally. Family records show that the Zweisimmen business was not flourishing like in early days, so it stands to reason that Gottfried must have asked himself how much longer would he remain in Switzerland. Besides, he was receiving exciting news from his brother Adolf, asking him to join him in Saxony. As Gottfried's marriage with Ida Maria was, for some reasons, not flourishing, the natural course was a divorce, which they did on 22 June 1907. Soon after, Gottfried made a second move to Saxony, and this time for good.

Gottfried Fahrni Senior immigrated from Zweisimmen to the Kingdom of Saxony in the course of 1907 to join his brother, Adolf Fahrni. As mentioned above, Christian and Adolf had settled in Meissen, respectively in about 1885 and 1902. Meissen is situated North of Dresden, 25 km downstream the Elbe River, and was considered among the wealthy of Europe for its world famous hard-paste porcelain manufacturing. In fact, Meissen was known as the cradle of European porcelain manufacturing. The surrounding areas of the town had large deposits of Kaolin clay, and the Saxon Porcelain Manufacture Company became the first to produce high quality-porcelain goods outside of the Orient.

The creation of porcelain goods for the aristocracy and the wealthy of Europe attracted artisans and artists from abroad, Italy and France. Meissen had developed into a booming town. Also worth mentioning is that by the end of the 19th century, the Kingdom of Saxony - the fifth State in the German Empire - was strongly industrialized and also the most densely-populated area of Europe. No doubt this was the logical reason why our three Fahrni ancestors left their Swiss mountains and emigrated.

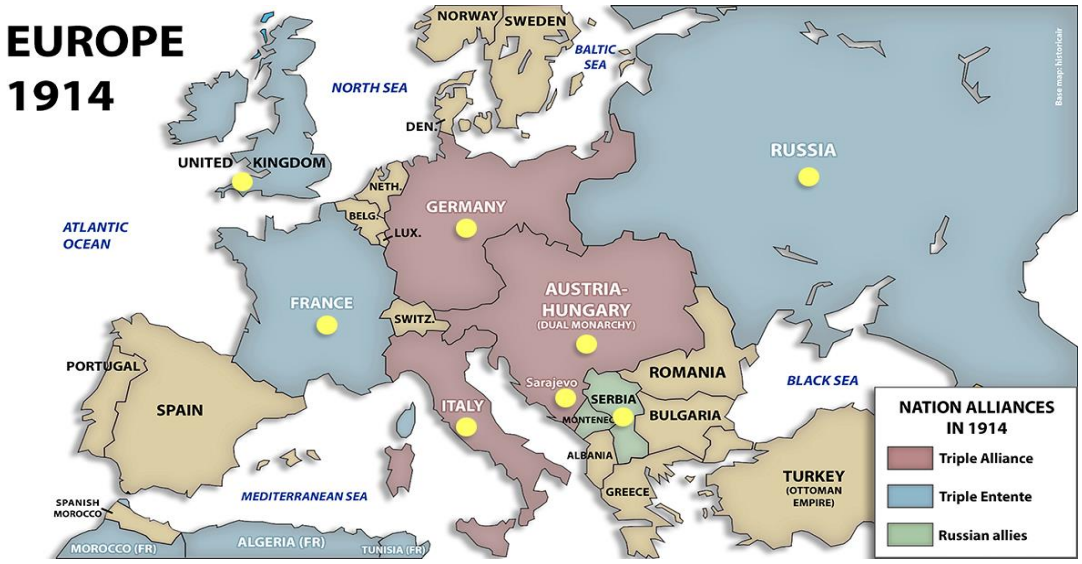
Information is scarce about Gottfried's definite move to Meissen, but we know he had already visited his half-brother, Christian Thomann, in Saxony around 1896. During that visit to Meissen, 20-year-old Gottfried, Sr. had met his future wife, 17-year-old Ida Marie Fischer, whom he took back to Zweisimmen to marry. A few years after Adolf had set up his transport company in Meissen, he needed help in his growing business and asked his elder brother, Gottfried, to join him. Gottfried did this in 1907, after his divorce in Switzerland.

As the time of the workhorse and cart was gradually disappearing, the Fahrni brothers owned light-delivery motor vehicles to supply goods in Meissen town and to surrounding villages. There is an unverified anecdote from the older generations of the family – no longer alive now – that Gottfried owned a Benz car in 1910. This was only three years after his arrival in Meissen, indicating that their transport business was doing well. In those days, personal car ownership was still rare, with only five cars per thousand people. Owning a Benz car clearly represented a status symbol for 34-year-old Gottfried Fahrni that gave him a sense of accomplishment.

Gottfried Fahrni was in partnership with his brother, Adolf, for about seven years until 1914, when the First World War began. Their Fahrni transport company was, presumably, shut down or integrated into the German war-economy. There is no doubt that the Fahrni brothers suffered heavy losses as war broke out and their prospects became nightmarish. They were Swiss immigrants to Germany and the loss of their business must have been provoked under duress. Unluckily, they did not see the war coming. As they possessed assets in Meissen, they could not sort out financial matters in time and return to their home country.

Coming from a wealthy family in Zweisimmen, they could easily have returned to Switzerland and taken over the farming, transport, and dairy and carpentry businesses of their parents. Ironically, both their parents, Johannes and Anna, deceased in early 1914. In addition to these sad circumstances, and being out of communication due to the war, the Fahrni brothers were unaware of the evil plot that was being hatched against them by their sister in Zweisimmen. Only much later would they find out that their father's businesses and total assets were misappropriated by Anna-Elisa Fahrni-Tochtermann. The inheritance documents of 8 June 1914 simply stated as "unknown address" for the three successors, Gottfried, Adolf and Christian. We know this statement was untrue.

The Kingdom of Saxony was then ruled by King Frederick Augustus III, and Saxony was the leading industrialized state in the German Confederation. With the start of the First World War, the 800'000 strong Saxon army was sent into battle, as the Third German Army, against the Russian Empire.



As can be seen above, the principle belligerents in the 1914-1918 World War were: on one side the Central Powers, aka The Alliance, consisting of mainly the German Empire and the Austria-Hungary Empire; on the other side the Allied Powers, aka The Entente, which were made up of mainly the British Empire, France and Imperial Russia. As the war went on, many other nations were engulfed into this global conflict, which resulted in 10 million soldiers killed, and about 20 million men wounded in combat.

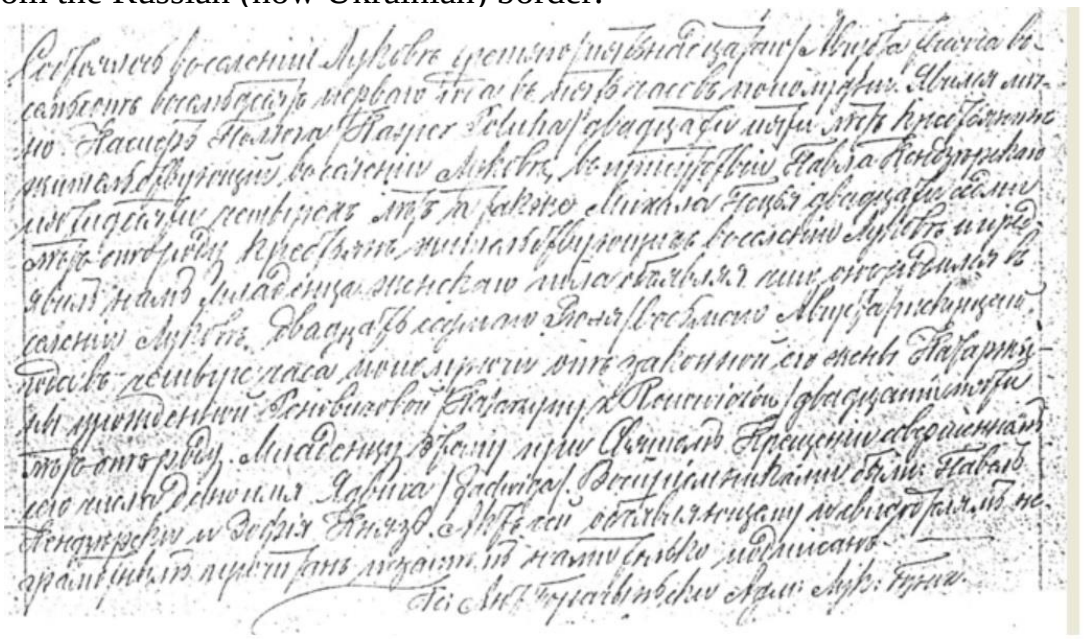
Advances in new technologies of killing introduced the aircraft, tank, machine guns and gas warfare, which all contributed to an additional 10 million civilians, killed during the hostilities. With the 1917 USA intervention, which financed the war through JP Morgan of Wall Street, the Allied Powers of Britain, France and Russia came out victorious. The result of this war was that the face of Europe had been fundamentally altered. The powerful empires of Germany, Austro-Hungary, Russia and Turkish-Ottoman collapsed and were no more.

There was hardly any combat on Saxon soil during the conflict, but the armed forces took most of the hired labor out of the economy, resulting in shortages of practically everything. Our grandfather, Gottfried Fahrni, Sr. was caught up in the turmoil of this economic war crisis. We know he and his brother had lost their transport company in Meissen, and their business horizons were to narrow considerably in this war situation. Later, Gottfried was found to be living and working on a farm in Nimtitz, as per census report. Nimtitz village is only 10 km away from Meissen and he must have been living there as from 1915/16, based on the birth certificate of his first child, Gertrude, born in June 1917. These dates also show that Gottfried must have met our Grandmother, Jadwiga Polucha, during 1914/15 either in Meissen or in Nimtitz. Grandmother Jadwiga was Polish and had left Lukowa during 1914 to come and work in Saxony.

A detailed description will be given at the end of Generation 10 on how the three surviving Polish children of Jadwiga Polucha-Szwed, and their descendants, finally met. It will also be shown how the Swiss and the German Fahrni descendants discovered that they had Polish cousins and how they finally met in Chelm in 2003.

But for now, the early life story of Jadwiga Polucha-Szwed will be described, from her birth in Lukowa until she emigrated to Saxony. Following which, we will return to the life story of both our grandparents Gottfried and Jadwiga together.

Jadwiga Polucha was born on 8th August 1881 in Lukowa, a small village situated near Zamosc, in the District of Lublin in Russian-occupied Poland. The village was located in the southeastern part of the country, about 50 km. from the Russian (now Ukrainian) border.



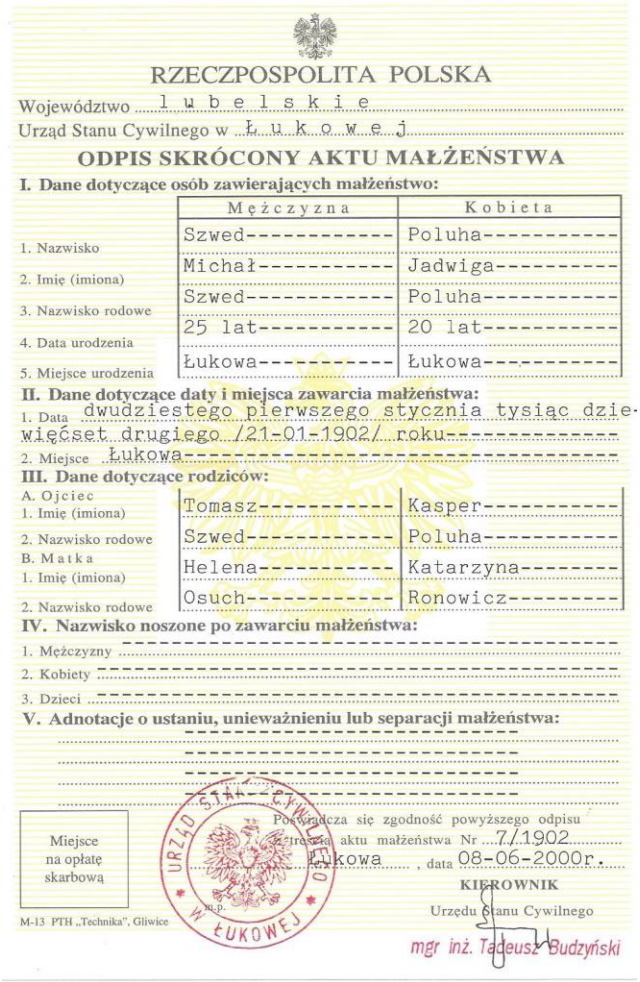
Jadwiga Polucha Baptism on 8 Aug.1881 in Lukowa. Translation.

This happened in the village of Loukowa on the 8th / 15th of August 1881, at five o'clock in the afternoon. Visited us Kacper Poluga in person, aged twenty five, a peasant and landowner residing in Loukowa village; he was accompanied by Pavel Kendzyrski, fifty four years old, and Mikhal Pets, twenty one years old, both peasants residing in Loukowa village. And he presented us with a baby of the female sex, announcing that she was born in the village of Loukowa on the 27th of July / 8th of August this year at four o'clock in the morning from his lawful wife Katarzhina nee Ronowitczowa, aged twenty five. During the ceremony of the Holy Baptism which was conducted today's date, the baby was given the name of Yadviga. Her God-parents, that she was given to, were Pavel Kendzyrski and Sofia Knyaz. This document has been read to the illiterate announcer and witnesses and signed by us. Signature : Priest of the Loukowa Parish.

ZBIORY ARCHIWUM w ZAMOSCIU

Jadwiga was the third child of Kacper Polucha and Katarzhyna Ronowicz, who married on 4th of June 1874 in Lukowa. According to vital statistics, her father Kacper Polucha was a farmer-landowner. Jadwiga's five siblings were not researched; however, her elder sister, Helena, had married a Michael March.

On 21st January 1902, Jadwiga, then 20 years old, married Michael Szwed also from Lukowa. The family lived in the Lukowa village until the death of husband Michael Szwed, on 18th December 1913.



RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA

Województwo lubelskie

Urząd Stanu Cywilnego w Łukowej

ODPIS SKRÓCONY AKTU MAŁŻEŃSTWA

I. Dane dotyczące osób zawierających małżeństwo:

	Mężczyzna	Kobieta
1. Nazwisko	Szwed	Poluha
2. Imię (imiona)	Michał	Jadwiga
3. Nazwisko rodowe	Szwed	Poluha
4. Data urodzenia	25 lat	20 lat
5. Miejsce urodzenia	Łukowa	Łukowa

II. Dane dotyczące daty i miejsca zawarcia małżeństwa:

1. Data dwudziestego pierwszego stycznia tysiąc dziewięćset drugiego /21-01-1902/ roku
2. Miejsce Łukowa

III. Dane dotyczące rodziców:

A. Ojciec		
1. Imię (imiona)	Tomasz	Kasper
2. Nazwisko rodowe	Szwed	Poluha
B. Matka		
1. Imię (imiona)	Helena	Katarzyna
2. Nazwisko rodowe	Osuch	Ronowicz

IV. Nazwisko noszone po zawarciu małżeństwa:

1. Mężczyzny
2. Kobiety
3. Dzieci

V. Adnotacje o ustaniu, unieważnieniu lub separacji małżeństwa:

Miejsce na opłatę skarbową

Poświadcza się zgodność powyższego odpisu z treścią aktu małżeństwa Nr 7/1902 Łukowa, data 08-06-2000r.

KIEROWNIK Urzędu Stanu Cywilnego

mgr inż. Tadeusz Budzyński

M-13 PTH „Technika", Gliwice

Jadwiga Polucha & Michael Szwed wedding

The Szwed – Polucha couple had their first child, named **Jan**, on 21st October 1902. This birth was exactly – to the day – nine months after their wedding day, indicating baby Jan was probably conceived on wedding night as per tradition of the time. Unfortunately, little Jan died when he was only ten months old.

Anna Szwed was the second child of Jadwiga and Michael, born on 16 July 1904. When she was nine years old, her father died and her mother - widowed with three young children - emigrated to Saxony to find work with the intent to financially support her three children left behind in Lukowa. Being the eldest of the three children, Anna must have been in charge of her two younger brothers while living with one of the Polucha uncles. Unfortunately, information is lost about Anna's life as an infant and teenager. But she said she clearly remembered her mother Jadwiga. During the stormy years of the First World War, the Lukowa region was destroyed to the point that the population was resettled to the east. According to Anna's saying, she got lost during their flight and later ended up as being a maid with strangers until she was 17.

In 1923, aged 19, Anna married Grzegorz Oliwiak thereby producing the prolific Oliwiak, Banka and other family lines well known to this day. Sometime after their wedding, Anna and Grzegorz settled in Majdan Stary, where all of their four children were born. At an unknown date after the Second World War, the Red Cross helped Anna to find her brother Wojciech, and later, contact was made with Mariana, the widow of Anna's brother Jozep. Anna's youngest son, Stanislaw Oliwiak, continued the research for the whereabouts of Grandmother Jadwiga and contact was made at some point. It was quite surprising to find out that the Polish cousins were in possession of the same pictures of Jadwiga and her second husband that we had received in Switzerland after the Second World War. This happened a long time ago, and nobody on the Polish side remembers who obtained these pictures from Saxony, but it is assumed it was most probably Anna. In her old age, Anna Szwed-Oliwiak lived in Chelm near her son Stanislaw's family and she died in 1985, at the respectable age of 81.



Aniela Szwed was born on 18 Oct. 1907, but died when she was one year old.

Jozep Szwed, was the first surviving male child of the family, born on 14 March 1910. His father died in Dec.1913, when he was about four years old and, soon after, his mother – widowed with three young children - left for Saxony on her own to find work and send money to her brother who took care of the three orphans back home. No information is available about Jozep's life as a child. During the First World War, the Szwed-Polucha family was relocated - or they fled - out of the Lukowa region to the east; it is not known whether Jozep stayed with the Polucha uncle or whether he was adopted. In any case, Jozep survived the horrors of the war and married Mariana Okoniewska in 1937 in Szcezrbrzeszyn. The couple had two daughters, namely Maria-Josefa and Urszula-Anna, born respectively in 1940 and 1942. According to his widow Mariana, Jozep Szwed had a good education and spoke fluent German. It is, therefore, possible that Jozep spent several years in Germany during the 1930's. Mariana said that Jozep had been involved in politics; as a result of his activities, he was executed by the Germans in 1944 in Zamosc.

Jozep was only 34 years old and left behind a 25-year-old-widow and two small children, aged 2 and 4. Despite the after-war restrictions and difficulties, both daughters became doctors and Anna married Jan, a surgeon. In her capacity as the senior member of the family clan, Mariana Szwed-Okoniewska, widow of Jozep, was in attendance during our 2003 family reunion in Chelm, where many of Jadwiga Polucha's descendants from her respective Polish and Swiss husbands finally met.



Wojciech Szwed was the last child of the couple, born on 26 February 1912. He was barely two years old when his father died in 1913. Being widowed with three young children, Jadwiga Polucha-Szwed had no support and financial means to feed and look after her offspring. Jadwiga took the risk to leave her three children in Lukowa in the care of one of her brothers and emigrated to Saxony during 1914. The plan was to find employment and to send money home to her brother for her children's upkeep. But the war left Poland deeply unsettled and Lukowa had to be abandoned. Not much is known about Wojciech's childhood, except that he was adopted by a farming family, and later, by a military family in Russia. He said the farming woman who cared for him was good to him, but he does not comment about his life with the military man. Although Wojciech was not talkative about his past, he was said to have immigrated to Germany with a friend in the 1940's. This could, however, have been a forced relocation to Germany as it was common during the war to send Poles to Germany to work in factories. On his return to Poland, Wojciech settled in Kamienna Gora, in Lower Silesia.



Many people coming back from labor camps in Germany, after WW II, were settled in this region of Lower Silesia, which previously belonged to Germany. These were recovered territories that became part of Poland. There is evidence that before his return to Poland, Wojciech lived in Lubeck, Germany, where his first son Ryszard was born in 1945. It seems that his wife-to-be, Pelagia Mojda, did also live in Lubeck. Wojciech and his wife and son returned to Poland in around 1946. They married in Kammienna Gora in 1949. Their second son Wojciech Jr was born the same Year. Pelagia Mojda died in 1953, when her sons were 8 & 3 years old. As a result, Wojciech Sr had to place his two sons into an orphanage for about eight years, until he married his second wife, Jozefa Zuchora. Wojciech Sr died in Przylek during 1985.

Before describing further the disheartening life of Jadwiga Polucha-Szwed-Fahrni, our maternal progenitress, suddenly widowed in 1913 with three surviving children aged 2, 4 and 9, it is necessary to highlight the political, social and military environment of Europe in the early 20th century. In fact, the entire continent was in a state of profound turbulence and revolutionary disturbance. The Kingdom of Poland had not existed as an independent state for more than one hundred years at this time, following the 18th century partitions of the country by the three great powers. In other words, an independent Poland had been absent from the geographical maps of Europe during all these years.

The Prussians controlled the west and north of the Polish land, the Russians occupied the center and southeast, and Austria controlled Galicia in the south west of the country. However, this by no means meant that Poland did not exist in the hearts of its over thirty million inhabitants. The well and long entrenched dream for the resurrection of a sovereign and united Poland had certainly not vanished. This sentiment was clearly shown by Fryderyk Chopin, one of the most popular piano composers who ever lived, in his production of the very successful "Polonaise" works. The "Polonaise" became Poland's national dance, a defiant and heroic creation depicting resentment towards the foreign overlords.

The dictatorial rule of partitioned Poland by the foreign powers provoked many uprisings, especially against the Russian Empire. The most notable uprising was the general revolt of 1863, which was ruthlessly defeated one year later by the Russian army, as could be expected. There were a great many subsequent turbulent protests and bloody street riots by the population, in an attempt to obtain freedom and self-rule in a Polish statehood. In retaliation, entire villages and town areas were burned to the ground by the occupying Russian troops and brutal measures were implemented against the population.

Over 30'000 people were killed and 70'000 were exiled to Siberia and to other remote areas of Russia. Evidence of these forced exiles can still be seen today in parts of Siberia, one being Irkutsk, on lake Baikal, where a traditional Polish Catholic church still exists, catering for the remaining and dwindling old Polish community.

During a visit made in 2001 to Siberia, I could notice that the average age of the churchgoers attending mass in Polish language in the Catholic Church of Irkutsk was over 60 years. Siberia is predominantly Orthodox country and the younger generations of these Polish exiles had all left and gone back to Poland. The remaining Poles there must be 3rd of 4th generation born in Russia.

The southeastern part of occupied Poland, the area where our Polucha-Szwed ancestors lived, endured the harshest restrictions by the Russian occupier. This generated resistance movements in many parts of the region. The 1905 insurrection of Lodz, not far from Lublin, spread all over the land and resulted in thousands of civilian protesters killed and injured. It all started following the forced conscriptions of young men into the Russian army, and a ruthless application of the Russification process. The ban of teaching the Polish language in schools and forbidding to speak their language in the administration was less than welcome. Many other revolts against the oppressor took place over the following years but, unfortunately, the insurgents were poorly armed and were no match against the occupying Russian forces.

As bad as life could have been then, the situation got even worse with the start of this monstrous First World War, which turned out to be extremely destructive to the Poles and to their land. The geographical location of Poland did not help, being right in the middle of the main warring powers, Germany and Russia. This meant that much fighting had taken place on Polish soil between the belligerent armies, causing terrifying human casualties and material losses.

Several million Polish men were mobilized to serve in either the Russian, or Austrian, or German armies, meaning that they were fighting their compatriots on the battlefield, often without knowing it. Much of the heavy battles took place in the Krakow region when the Russian forces were beaten back by the Germans, resulting in large scale atrocities to the local population. Later, the territory was once more looted and destroyed by the retreating German armies, causing slaughter on a grand scale, severe economic hardship and malnutrition. Later again, the German army reoccupied Poland; and the plundering and raping and killings resumed worse than before.

The suffering and deprivation of the civilian population was unimaginable and this had been ongoing for a staggering fifteen years. At the end of the war, in 1918, one million Polish refugees had fled the country; and 300'000 civilians had been moved to labour camps in Germany. Finally, in 1918, Poland regained its freedom and self-rule; but soon after began border wars, first against Russia, and later against Czechoslovakia.

The above descriptions should give a better understanding about the traumatic lives of our ancestors in Lukowa and elsewhere during the First WW period. Life in Poland was nothing more than pain, suffering and misery. It is certainly difficult to imagine the desolation in which 32-year-old Jadwiga Polucha-Szwed found herself in, losing her husband, without any hope and money on how to care for her three young children. It should also explain why the just widowed Jadwiga saw no alternative but to leave Poland and find employment in nearby Saxony for some time. There was no heroism in her departure, but leaving her three children in the care of one of her brothers seemed to be the only way to temporarily sorting out her precarious situation. There is absolutely no doubt that Grandmother Jadwiga wanted to find work and send money back to her brother in Lukowa, for raising her three children; she left behind her three young children and a life full of sorrow and tragedies, but she certainly wanted to return to Lukowa once the war was over.

Jadwiga's travel from Lukowa to Meissen, in Saxony, must not have been an easy one. The most direct route to Germany was Zamosc-Rzeszow-Krakow-Wroclaw-Dresden, with a distance of over 900 km. In 1914, there existed a regional railway, from Wroclaw to Dresden; the other means of transport must have been very slow and her trip may have taken several weeks.

During this bloody conflict, the monstrous war machine left its deep marks in the Lublin-Lukowa area, causing the population to flee for their lives to the east. People of this area were uprooted from their homes and forcibly displaced. The east was their destination and this could only mean Russia, which was about 50 km away from Lukowa. The early life stories of two of Jadwiga's three children clearly confirm that they fled to the east and lived in Russia.

Jadwiga's first child, Anna Szwed, said that they went to the east, then she became lost and finally was taken in by people as a maid. Jadwiga's last son, Wojciech, said he lived in Russia with adoptive farming people and later with a military man. We can only say that it was lucky that the three orphans survived the fighting and the bombardments, although their early life must have been horrible. It is unfortunate that no information is available about Jadwiga's three Polucha siblings, as their descendants could shed some light on this period.

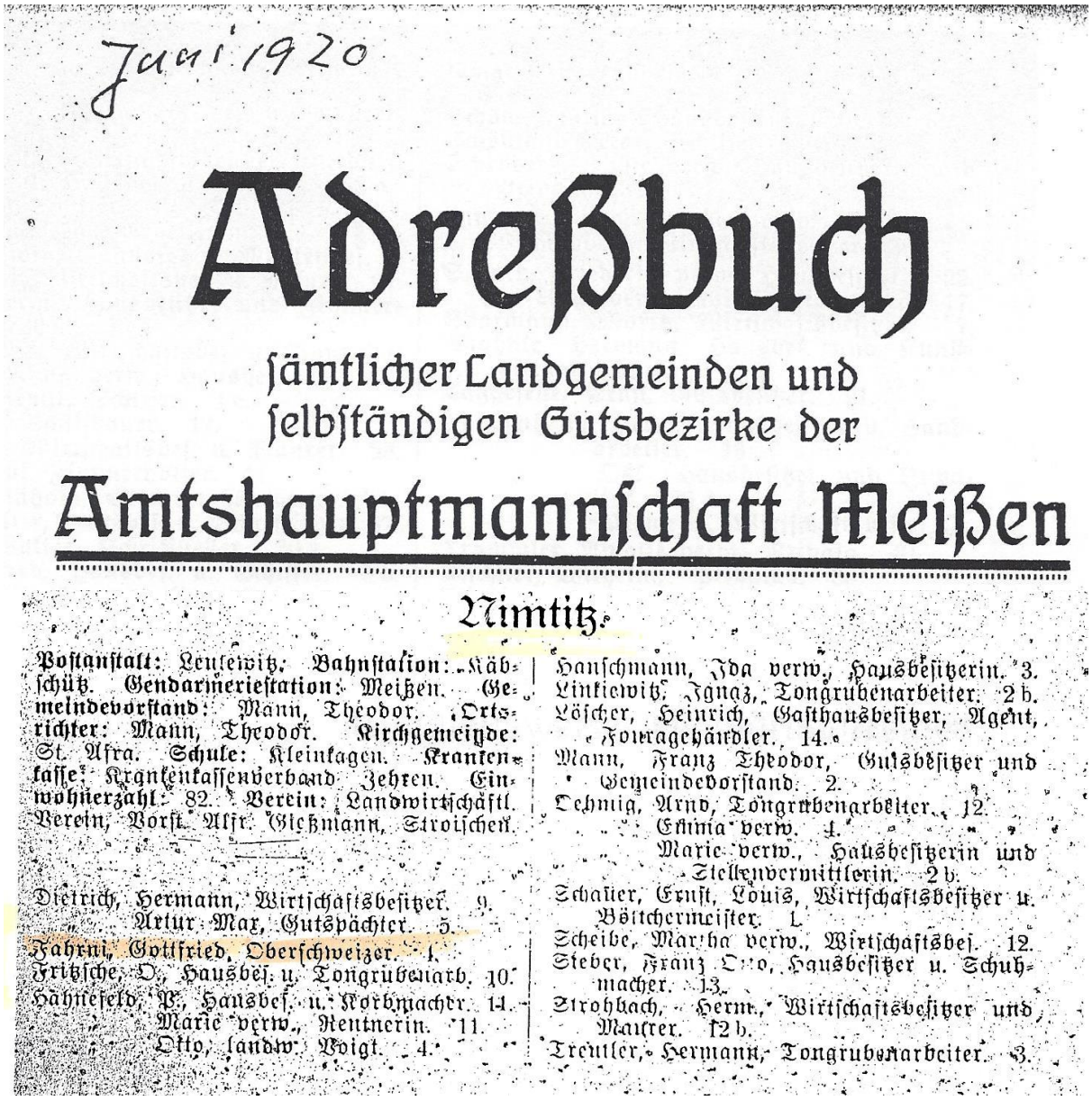
There is no doubt that Grandmother Jadwiga had tried to contact her children back home during and after the war, but Lukowa was destroyed and its inhabitants had either died or had fled to the east, to Russia. And the situation in Saxony was hardly any better for Grandmother, as a Polish refugee during this wartime period. She moved to Saxony but there she continued to endure the hardships of life. Even if she had managed to save some money working in Meissen, her money could not have reached her family in Lukowa as the area had been abandoned. The contact with her brother and her children had simply become impossible and Jadwiga must have assumed, with great sorrow, that her children had not survived. The aftermath of the First World War was hardly any better than the war itself, as misery and deprivation remained. Around 1919, Jadwiga had tried again to contact her family, and especially her three children, then aged 15, 11 and 7, through the Red Cross. Did she manage to locate her daughter then ? It is possible she did, because of her picture in possession of the Polish descendants.

By 1915, Jadwiga Polucha was living with Gottfried Fahrni in Nimtitz. Having Swiss nationality, Gottfried may have had reasons to keep his head down and stay in the shadows of the Nimtitz farm for 15 years with his family. He was working on a large farming estate in the position of Oberschweizer. In those days, the Swiss were reputed to be experts in farm animal husbandry, and his title indicates that he was in charge of the workers in the main stables of the farm, generally the cow stables, the horse stables and the pig stables. To live and work on a large farming estate during the war, away from the large German cities, was definitely an advantage as housing was provided for and basic farm food products were available to the family.

A 1920 Population Census of Meissen, Saxony, designates Gottfried Fahrni as Oberschweizer in Nimtitz. Oberschweizer is an old description, in Germany, of a man in charge of the stables on a large farming estate. The Oberschweizer supervised the workers in the main stables of the farm, i.e. the cows, horses and pigs, for the feeding, cleaning, milking and general maintenance.

Ober : In charge of

Schweizer : Swiss people were reputed as experts in farm animal husbandry



Juni 1920

Adreßbuch

sämtlicher Landgemeinden und selbständigen Gutsbezirke der

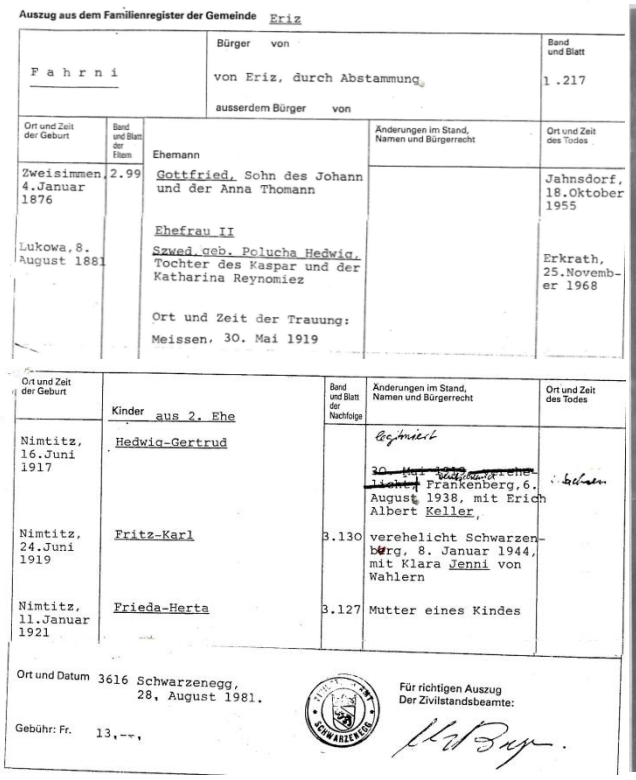
Amtshauptmannschaft Meißen

Nimtitz.

Postanstalt: Leutewitz. **Bahnstation:** Käbschütz. **Gendarmeriestation:** Meißen. **Gemeindevorstand:** Mann, Theodor. **Ortsrichter:** Mann, Theodor. **Kirchgemeinde:** St. Afra. **Schule:** Kleinkagen. **Krankenkasse:** Krankenkassenverband Zehren. **Einwohnerzahl:** 82. **Verein:** Landwirtschaftl. Verein, Vorst. Alfr. Gießmann, Stroischen.

Dietrich, Hermann, Wirtschaftsbesitzer. 9.
„ Artur Max, Gutspächter. 5.
Fahrni, Gottfried, Oberschweizer. 1.
Fritzsche, O., Hausbes. u. Tongrubenarb. 10.
Hähnefeld, P., Hausbes. u. Korbmachr. 11.
„ Marie verw., Rentnerin. 11.
„ Otto, landw. Voigt. 4.
Hanschmann, Ida verw., Hausbesitzerin. 3.
Linkiewitz, Ignaz, Tongrubenarbeiter. 2 b.
Löscher, Heinrich, Gasthausbesitzer, Agent, Futteragehändler. 14.
Mann, Franz Theodor, Gutsbesitzer und Gemeindevorstand. 2.
Oehmig, Arno, Tongrubenarbeiter. 12.
„ Emma verw. 4.
„ Marie verw., Hausbesitzerin und Stellenvermittlerin. 2 b.
Schauer, Ernst, Louis, Wirtschaftsbesitzer u. Böttchermeister. 1.
Scheibe, Martha verw., Wirtschaftsbes. 12.
Steber, Franz Otto, Hausbesitzer u. Schuhmacher. 13.
Strohbach, Herm., Wirtschaftsbesitzer und Maurer. 12 b.
Treutler, Hermann, Tongrubenarbeiter. 3.

Gottfried and Jadwiga had their three children together while living in Nimtitz. Gertrude was born in 1917, Karl in 1919 and Herta in 1921. Legend has it that they could not marry during the wartime years, so they celebrated their wedding in Meissen on 30th May 1919. For both of them, this was their second wedding. Jadwiga was widowed in 1913 in Poland; Gottfried was divorced in 1907 in Switzerland. At their wedding, Gottfried and Jadwiga were respectively 43 and 38 years old.



Auszug aus dem Familienregister der Gemeinde Eriz

	Bürger von	Band und Blatt
F a h r n i	von Eriz, durch Abstammung	1.217
	ausserdem Bürger von	

Ort und Zeit der Geburt	Band und Blatt der Eltern	Ehemann	Änderungen im Stand, Namen und Bürgerrecht	Ort und Zeit des Todes
Zweisimmen, 4.Januar 1876	2.99	Gottfried, Sohn des Johann und der Anna Thomann		Jahnsdorf, 18.Oktober 1955
Lukowa, 8. August 1881		Ehefrau II Szwed geb. Polucha Hedwig, Tochter des Kaspar und der Katharina Reynomiez Ort und Zeit der Trauung: Meissen, 30. Mai 1919		Erkrath, 25.November 1968

Ort und Zeit der Geburt	Kinder aus 2. Ehe	Band und Blatt der Nachfolge	Änderungen im Stand, Namen und Bürgerrecht	Ort und Zeit des Todes
Nimtitz, 16.Juni 1917	Hedwig-Gertrud		Geschieden ~~30. Mai 1939 Schwarzenberg, ehelicht~~ Frankenberg, 6. August 1938, mit Erich Albert Keller,	
Nimtitz, 24.Juni 1919	Fritz-Karl	3.130	verehelicht Schwarzenberg, 8. Januar 1944, mit Klara Jenni von Wahlern	
Nimtitz, 11.Januar 1921	Frieda-Herta	3.127	Mutter eines Kindes	

Ort und Datum 3616 Schwarzenegg, 28. August 1981.

Gebühr: Fr. 13.--

Für richtigen Auszug
Der Zivilstandsbeamte:

Jadwiga Fahrni-Polucha is wearing a traditional Polish dress for her wedding to Gottfried Fahrni Sr. in Meissen, Saxony, on 30th May 1919. Their three children were all born during the time the family lived in Nimtitz.

By living on a farming estate, the shattered aftermath of the First World War did, fortunately, not have as adverse an effect for the Fahrni family. It was somewhat sheltered against the spiraling hyper-inflation and food shortages that existed for people living in urban areas. Years later, the family was still safely settled on the Nimtitz farm during the 1929 Great Depression, which spurred misery and massive unemployment throughout the country.



Gottfried Fahrni Sr. with his wife Jadwiga on the farm in Nimtitz, 1926.

Gradually, many German politicians and intellectuals were assessing more fervently their defeat in the war and its distressful consequences to the country. This led many to discuss on a fundamental revolution of a new political order, which was instigated by Hitler and his emerging Nazi regime. A great majority of Germans deeply felt that the Treaty of Versailles had wronged their country by making Germany solely responsible for starting the war. Only many years later did Western scholars say that the Great War had been as much the result of Franco-Russian intrigues as of German aggression. The perception was that the Treaty had dictated extremely harsh armistice terms and demanded excessive and unfair war reparation payments. The massive liability of material damage was just an impossible burden on the Weimar Republic.

The reasons for Gottfried Fahrni Sr. and his family to move away from Nimtitz, after about 15 years of employment there, cannot be certain. Presumably, it was his age of 55 that was responsible for the loss of his job. But a reconstruction of events must be cautious, and it could well be that the Nimtitz farming estate had been taken over by a government unit. The fact is that in 1931, we find the Fahrni family in Ottendorf-Okrilla, a farming village 40 km east, near the Polish-Czech borders. One picture of his son, Karl, dated about 1936 (see text under Karl), confirms that the family was also living on a farming estate and that, like in Nimtitz, Gottfried Sr. was still in charge of the stables. The Fahrni family would live in Ottendorf for about five years, again luckily sheltered on the farm from the revolutionary and war environment existing in the country.



Jadwiga Fahrni – Polucha & Gottfried Fahrni Senior
In Ottendorf, Saxony in 1939, aged 54 and 59

Hitler's stern demands for a revision of the Versailles Treaty, including the reclaim of lost territories, enhanced the credibility of the Nazi party. Nazi Germany pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933, and one year later Hitler nullified the Treaty of Versailles by building up the army. The Nazi-controlled media stressed that the harsh terms of the Versailles Treaty plunged Germany into dire recession. The Treaty also maintained French superiority in arms over Germany; the media declared its indignity towards France for having occupied their industrial Ruhr valley; the media also claimed that France wanted to deny Germany's very right to historical existence. Unfortunately, the population was simply unable to grasp the significance of the German rearmament. The reason was that the reconstruction efforts resulted in a rapid decline of the unemployed workers, and many felt and appreciated the return of German pride. Many more agreed that the Nazi revolution was offering the best way out of the chaos that had engulfed Germany since the end of the war.

When Hitler grabbed absolute power over Germany, following the death of President Hindenburg, the Nazi regime intensified its barbarism and its cynical brutality with the persecution of Jews and communists. The forces of tyranny were building up for the extermination of liberty, but the populace, as well as the moderate elements of the Hitler regime, were willing to accept, with a strange indifference and without protest, all new oppressive decrees and new acts of violence. There was no free media to point out what wrongs were being done and to condemn the indoctrination process. There was now murder on a terrifying scale, but the crowd was gradually converted to servile bystanders, thrusting out their arms in salute of Hitler.

And yet, up to about 1936, the Fahrni family was living peacefully on the farm of Ottendorf; the research into the period did not show any signs of duress or stress to the family caused by the political situation. If this was indeed the case, the two portrait photos above of Jadwiga and Gottfried, and the pictures taken of their son, Karl, during these years, indicate that they were living a normal life, despite the events throughout the country. But as time went on, the march towards all-out-war was felt at all levels of society and the Nazi rhetoric grew more menacing towards foreigners residing in Germany. Gottfried Fahrni, Sr., was now sixty and was not of interest to the military. However, the situation was different for his son, Karl, who had earlier been enrolled into the Hitler Youth organization. Karl was now approaching the age of conscription and there was danger that he could be forcefully enlisted in a frontline posting.

At 61, Gottfried Fahrni, Sr., must have started to feel his age and may have decided to move to a less demanding job. Perhaps the situation replicated itself in that the farm of Ottendorf could have been taken over by the Government, as probably had happened in Nimtitz. The above, however, is a matter of sheer conjecture, as no family member has any recollection. Nevertheless, in about 1937, the Fahrni family left Ottendorf and moved to the village of Merzdorf, Nieder-Lichtenau, not far from Frankenberg. Our research shows evidence that Gottfried also worked on a farm in Merzdorf, in his well-established profession of Oberschweizer. Family lore is that the farming estate of Merzdorf was large with the family living on the farm in an independent cottage. There, according to family members, grandfather Gottfried owned a few goats and many rabbits.

In early 1938, Gottfried and Jadwiga had still their family united under one roof on the farm of Merzdorf, with their three children, Gertrude, Karl and Herta. But family life would change during that same year, in August, when their first daughter, Gertrude, married Erich A. Keller in nearby Frankenberg. Less than one year later, during the first half of 1939, their only son, Karl, left the family and fled to Switzerland, the home country of the Fahrni clan.

The Second World War had just begun, starting with the Anschluss, when German troops marched into Austria, followed by the invasion of Poland in September, 1939, and the declaration of war on Germany by Britain and France. During the first few years of the war, life for the German civilian population did not change drastically. Sons and husbands had left for war, but the fighting took basically place abroad. The government mobilized all potential workers, wives and teenagers, for the home front production and war effort. As the consumer-economy was running efficiently at home, shortages of food and basic needs were not overwhelming. With the start of the war, the depression was just a bad souvenir. Women played a significant role in the homeland production, thus maintaining a morale and spirit of the population. Our aunt, Herta Fahrni, (pictured below) for instance, was enlisted in the fire brigade of her home town.
Hitler gained credit for rapid victories over Poland and West Europe and remained popular up to about 1943.



Merzdorf, in about 1942.

Jadwiga & Gottfried Fahrni

with their daughters

Gertrude and Herta.

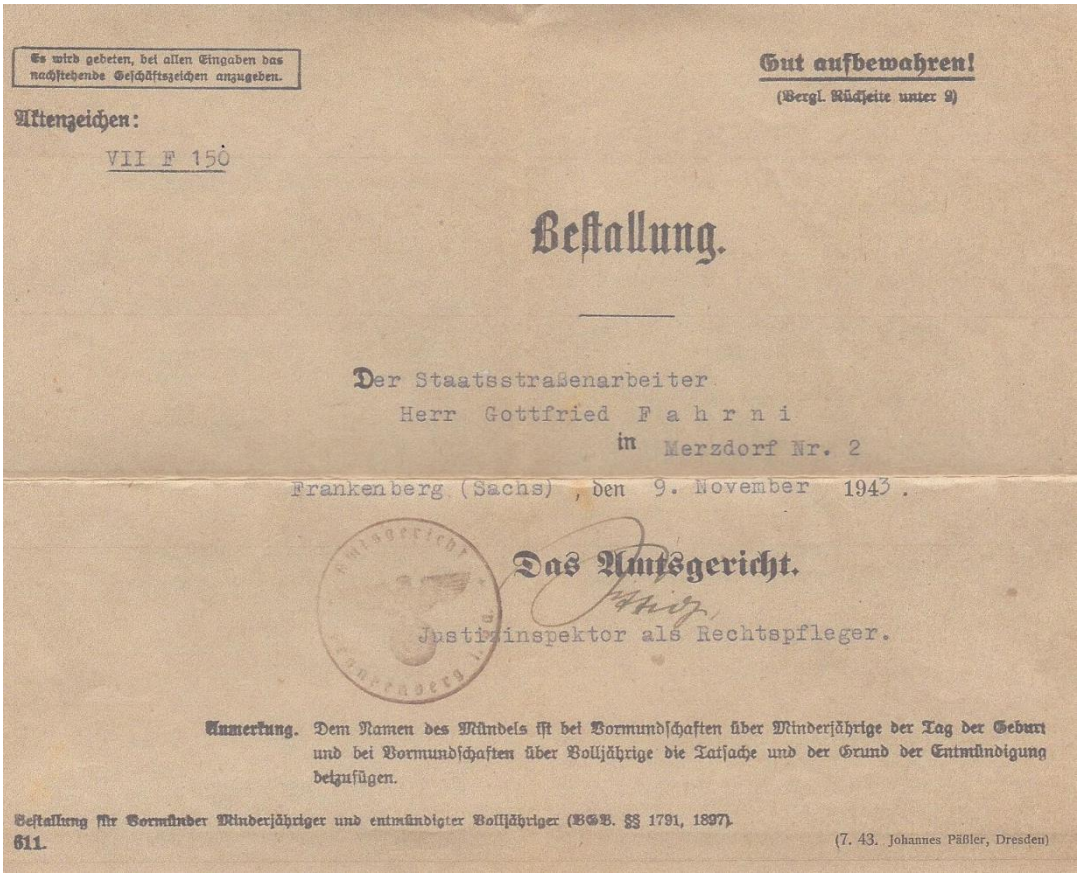
Karl is missing as he had

left for Switzerland.

War was brought home to Germany three years into WW II, in about 1943, when the Allied forces began their systematic bombing of strategic towns and industrial cities. The failed German offensive to invade Russia was a turning point in the conflict and the civilian population of Germany began to experience the horrors of bombardments. In addition, the Nazis redirected its entire economy to war production, resulting in shortages of food and basic necessities.

Not much information has filtered down the family lineage on the effects of war in the Merzdorf/Frankenberg area. Aunt Gertrude Fahrni-Keller's three children were born during that period - Ursula in 1939, Erika in 1940 and Karl-Heinz in 1942. Likewise, Herta Fahrni-Borsch's first child, Karin, was born in 1943. But the war generation children were too young to remember and their parents did not wish to relate details about this dark period.

Below is an official document dated 1943, stating that grandfather Gottfried Fahrni was employed as a "Strassenarbeiter" roadmender in Merzdorf.



Es wird gebeten, bei allen Eingaben das nachstehende Geschäftszeichen anzugeben.

Gut aufbewahren!
(Vergl. Rückseite unter 2)

Aktenzeichen:
VII F 150

Bestallung.

Der Staatsstraßenarbeiter
Herr Gottfried F a h r n i
in Merzdorf Nr. 2

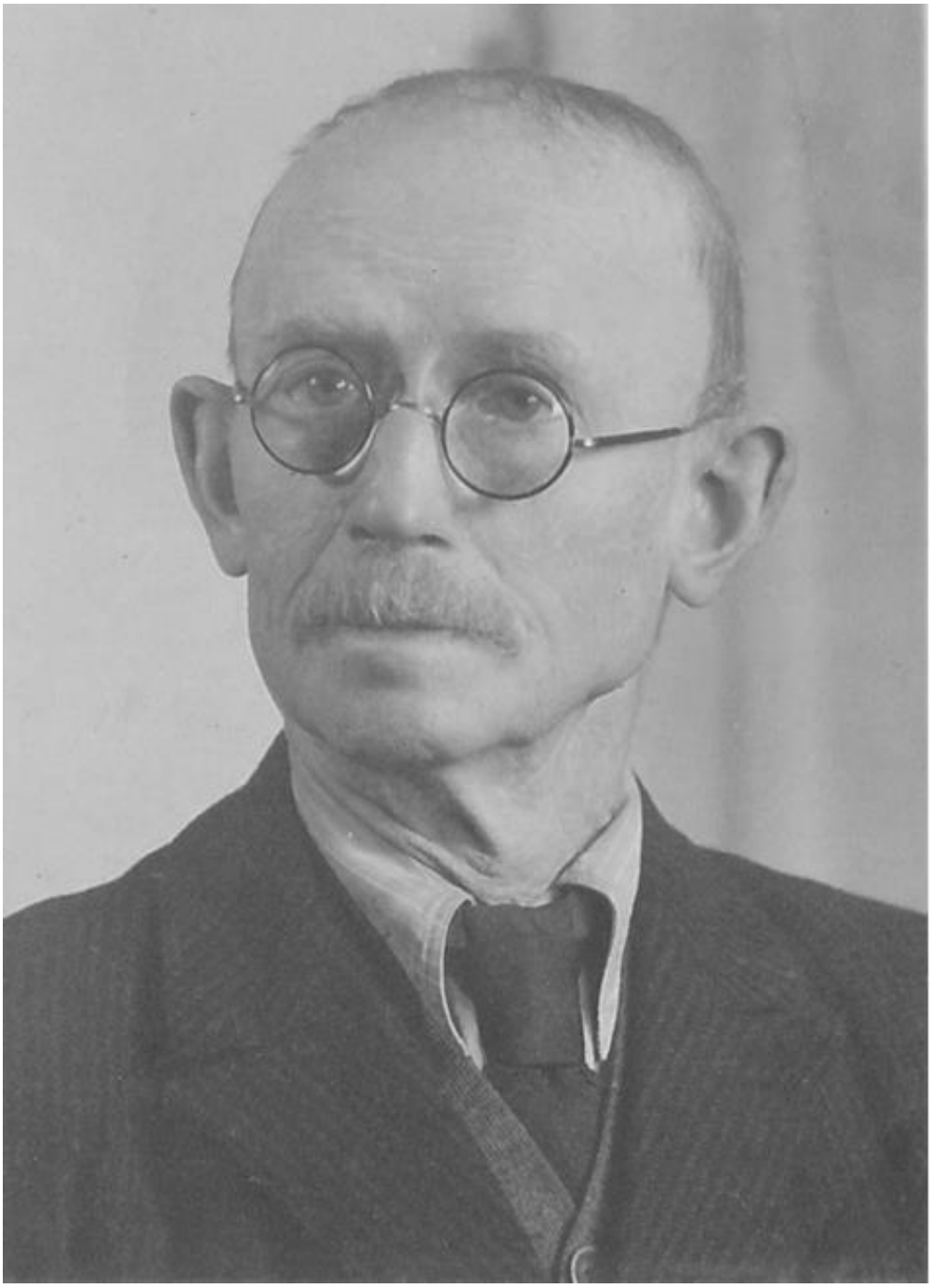
Frankenberg (Sachs), den 9. November 1943.

Das Amtsgericht.
Justizinspektor als Rechtspfleger.

Anmerkung. Dem Namen des Mündels ist bei Vormundschaften über Minderjährige der Tag der Geburt und bei Vormundschaften über Volljährige die Tatsache und der Grund der Entmündigung beizufügen.

Bestallung für Vormünder Minderjähriger und entmündigter Volljähriger (BGB. §§ 1791, 1897).
611. (7. 43. Johannes Päßler, Dresden)

It was in 1943 that the picture below was taken of Gottfried Fahrni, Sr. He was 67 years old and lived in Merzdorf, Saxony, with his wife, Jadwiga, and their daughter, Herta, and granddaughter, Karin. Our grandfather's usual intense look marks an inner intensity of his strong personality. He took good care of his family during the 40 years of violent upheavals in Saxony.



Due to the end-of-war carnage, followed by the Soviet occupation, the information available about the Fahrni family from 1944 onwards is indeed scarce. Grandparents Gottfried and Jadwiga were then in their 70s' and their children had died before they could enlighten us about life during that period. Some details on joys and sufferings came down the family line through the third generation, namely Karin, Erika and Karl-Heinz. The fact that they became poor is repeatedly mentioned, but this degrading status of poverty was certainly true for the largest part of the population. While, after the war, the western part of Germany was receiving massive American help for reconstruction, in the eastern part the Soviet occupier was engaging in a systematic dismantling of industrial machinery for transfer to Russia. Even worse, Soviet ruled Germany was subdued to producing goods for being mainly exported to the USSR. But, we know that Gottfried Fahrni Sr. still possessed goats and rabbits in 1949, a definite advantage for sheer survival of the family in those days.

It is important to remember that the Soviet occupier's agenda was, first and foremost, to implement a communist revolution. This included the breaking up of traditional norms and values of the population, the abolishment of religion and making the people government-dependent. The quickest road to enforce a dictatorial communist state power was to transfer the educational institutions into Marxist entities and to institute mass surveillance of the people. Eventually, the loss of freedom of speech and total media censorship, imposed by the Soviet rulers from the end of the war until 1949, was enough to indoctrinate a large part of the East German intelligentsia. The consequence was that, at the birth of the DDR, the local politicians endorsed and implemented their Russian masters' utopic communist dogma.

Grandparents Gottfried and Jadwiga were taking care of their grandchild Karin until she was four years old, when their daughter, Herta, stopped working full time and finally married Hans Borsch, as he returned from the military in 1947. Soon after, the young Borsch family moved to nearby Frankenberg; our dear grandparents also left Merzdorf, and were accommodated by their daughter Gertrude and her family, settled in Zwonitz. The most striking souvenir by all those who knew Gottfried Fahrni Sr. in Merzdorf was his yodeling. To the great enjoyment of his grandchildren, he would take them on his lap and intone a Swiss alpine yodeling song and, as tradition required, sing about the Swiss mountains, nature and the homeland.

Grandfather Gottfried had learned the tradition of yodeling as a boy in Switzerland when he lived among the family in his birth town of Zweisimmen. He kept the yodeling tradition alive during the forty years he had lived in Saxony, which is a sign that his heart remained close to his Swiss Alps. As our father, Karl, played the accordion, father and son must have entertained family and friends with music of Swiss origin all those years. What is even more commendable, seventy-two-year-old Gottfried was still yodeling, despite having gone through the loss of his business in 1914, the slaughter of WWI and its shattered aftermath, the brutality of Nazism, the misery and horrors of WW2, followed by the Soviet occupation and, finally, the social chaos of communism. Grandmother Jadwiga is mostly remembered for her kindness and for drying and preserving all sorts of fruits. She also fermented apples and made cider to the great satisfaction of her husband.



Grandmother Jadwiga with her two daughters. Herta on the left of her mother and Gertrude on the right. The picture was taken, probably in Zwonitz, shortly before Herta, her husband and daughter left to West Germany in around 1949.

As mentioned earlier, from about 1948 our grandparents lived in Zwonitz with their daughter Gertrude Keller and her family of three children, Ursula, Erika and Karl Heinz (more precisely until 1950 for grandfather and until 1955 for grandmother). These were difficult times four our grandparents. First their younger daughter Herta and her family had left for West Germany during 1949; and the year after their son Karl suddenly died in Switzerland, at the age of 31, leaving behind a widow and four young children. Also, grandfather's health had seriously deteriorated. Old age had finally caught up with our grandparents. The picture below is the last one available of Gottfried and Jadwiga Fahrni together, taken in Zwonitz, Saxony, in 1950.

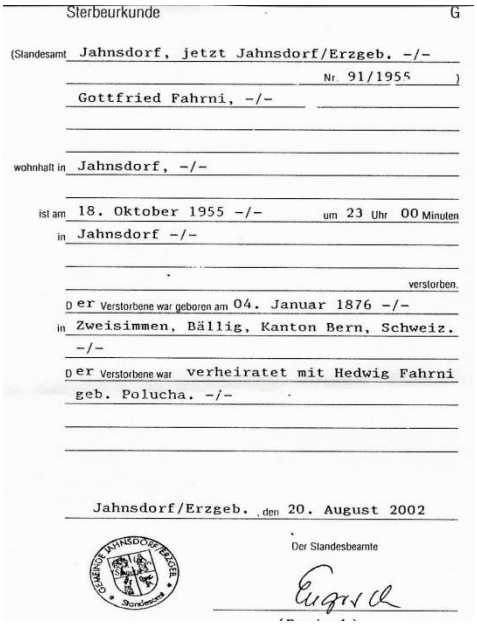


Soon after this picture was taken, grandfather Gottfried, at the age of 74, was placed in a home for old-aged people in nearby Jahnsdorf. The constant struggle for survival over the years had left its mark on his health.

Grandfather Gottfried Fahrni, Sr., spent five years in an old people's home in Jahnsdorf. Since Zwonitz was located close by, he received regular visits from his wife, Jadwiga, daughter, Gertrude, and grandchildren. It was on 18 October, 1955 that grandfather departed this life peacefully, at the age of 79.



Grandmother Jadwiga and her daughter Gertrude organized a traditional catholic funeral for the deceased. There is no doubt that Grandfather Gottfried left this earth with all the honors and respect he deserved. The picture shows Gottfried Fahrni Sr., lying "in state" in the Slumber Room, adorned with the traditional background drapes, flower racks and many wreaths, all with white flowers. No details could be found about funeral oration and procession, nor is there information about the burial place, but grandfather's resting place is most probably in the cemetery of Zwonitz.



Sterbeurkunde G

(Standesamt Jahnsdorf, jetzt Jahnsdorf/Erzgeb. -/-
Nr. 91/1955)
Gottfried Fahrni, -/-

wohnhaft in Jahnsdorf, -/-

ist am 18. Oktober 1955 -/- um 23 Uhr 00 Minuten
in Jahnsdorf -/-

verstorben.
Der Verstorbene war geboren am 04. Januar 1876 -/-
in Zweisimmen, Bällig, Kanton Bern, Schweiz.
-/-
Der Verstorbene war verheiratet mit Hedwig Fahrni
geb. Polucha. -/-

Jahnsdorf/Erzgeb., den 20. August 2002

Der Standesbeamte

Gottfried Fahrni death record

Soon after she lost her husband, Grandmother Jadwiga decided to join her other daughter, Herta Fahrni-Borsch, in Dusseldorf. Grandmother was 74 years old when she left East Germany to spend her remaining years in the West. We do not know how grandmother was able to cross the tightly controlled East-West borders in 1955; it is assumed that she was permitted to leave East Germany through a family reunification arrangement for old people. Grandmother Jadwiga spent about three years with her daughter, Herta, and her family in Dusseldorf. It is also during that period that the freedom of communication, only available in the West at that time, enable her to finally meet her daughter-in-law, Klara Jenni-Fahrni-Liechti, the widow of her son, Karl, who had died five years earlier in Switzerland. With much emotional crying, grandmother also met two of her Fahrni grandchildren.



Grandmother Jadwiga Fahrni

with her daughter-in-law,

Klara Fahrni, in Dusseldorf.

Picture taken in about 1957.

In around 1958, grandmother decided to move closer to God and retired to a Monastery not far from Dusseldorf. The Monastery was located in the Kirchstrasse 5, in Erkrath, and was attached to the "St Johannes der Taufer Kirche", "Saint John the Baptist Church".

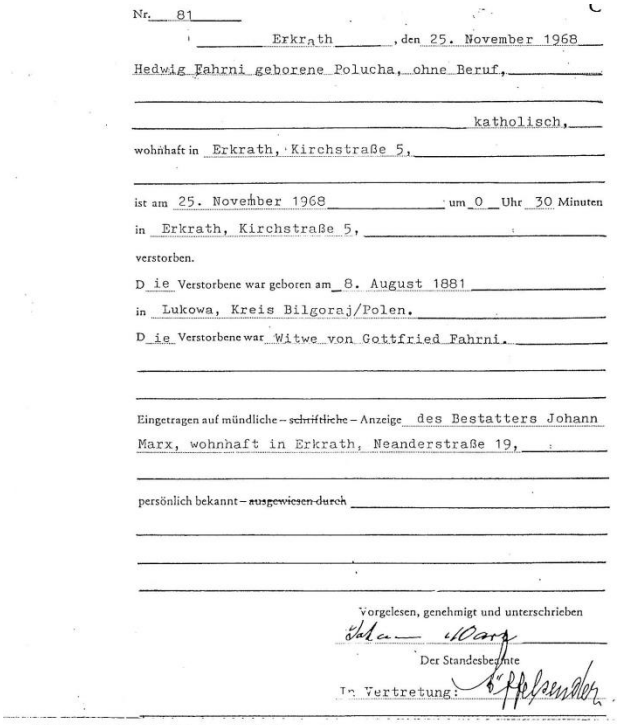
Grandmother Jadwiga spent the remaining 10 years of her life in the Monastery in Erkrath, being taken care of by the Dernbacher Schwestern, the sisters of the well-known ADJC, "Arme Dienstmagde Jesu Christi".

Jadwiga's life was conflicted during her last years, despite her allegiance to her second marriage with Gottfried and her three Fahrni children. Now living in a Monastery and feeling closer to God, her thoughts brought her nearer to her youth and to her three children she had lost in Poland in 1914. During the visits by her daughter Herta, and her two granddaughters, Grandmother often gave way to her deep sorrow with the usual trail of unstoppable tears leaking from her eyes. She felt ashamed that she had lost her three small Szwed children in Lukowa. And Herta would at all times comfort Grandmother, reassuring her that it was not her fault but the tragedy of having been widowed so early in life. Grandmother Jadwiga died peacefully on 25 November 1968, at the age of 87.

Sankt Johannes der Taufer Kirche. Erkrath



Death Certificate



Nr. 81

Erkrath, den 25. November 1968

Hedwig Fahrni geborene Polucha, ohne Beruf, katholisch,

wohnhaft in Erkrath, Kirchstraße 5,

ist am 25. November 1968 um 0 Uhr 30 Minuten

in Erkrath, Kirchstraße 5,

verstorben.

Die Verstorbene war geboren am 8. August 1881

in Lukowa, Kreis Bilgoraj/Polen.

Die Verstorbene war Witwe von Gottfried Fahrni.

Eingetragen auf mündliche – ~~schriftliche~~ – Anzeige des Bestatters Johann Marx, wohnhaft in Erkrath, Neanderstraße 19,

persönlich bekannt – ~~ausgewiesen durch~~

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben

Johann Marx

Der Standesbeamte

In Vertretung:



Ablichtung aus dem Sterbebuch (Sterberegister) des Standesamts Erkrath

Die Übereinstimmung mit dem Eintrag wird hiermit beglaubigt. Die Ablichtung enthält

– keinen – -/- Randvermerk(e); die Bezeichnung des Sterbeortes

ist – nicht – in – -/- geändert worden.

Erkrath, den 2. 12. 82

(Siegel)

Der Standesbeamte

(Unterschrift)

Jadwiga Polucha - Szwed - Fahrni

Born 8.8.1881 Lukowa. Died 25.11.1968 Erkrath.



How did the Swiss and German Families meet their Polish cousins

Sometime after the Second World War, Anna Szwed-Oliwiak, Jadwiga's daughter, managed to locate her younger brother Wojciech in Poland through the Red Cross. Wojciech confirmed that, thereafter, he had met his sister several times. Anna also found Mariana Okoniewska, Jozep's widow. From then on, two of the surviving children of the Szwed-Polucha couple were reunited, and the widow of the third child was in touch.

Surprisingly, when the Swiss, German and Polish family members finally met, at the 2003 Family Reunion in Chelm, the descendants of the three Polish family branches were in possession of Grandmother Jadwiga's wedding photographs with her second husband, Gottfried Fahrni Sr.. This discovery was significant, and if anything, it was proof that the Polish descendants had been in contact, at some time in the past, with Grandmother Jadwiga, or with one of her Fahrni children. These wedding pictures were taken in Saxony in 1919, and were the exact same available with the Fahrni descendants of Germany. And these were also the same wedding pictures that our father, Karl Fahrni, brought to Switzerland when he fled Germany in 1939.

We will probably never know for sure how, when and by whom, these wedding pictures of our Grandparents were sent to Poland. We can only speculate, but my assumption is that it was Anna Szwed-Oliwiak who obtained and distributed these pictures of her mother's second wedding to her Polish family. But the question remains unanswered as the information did not filter down the generations.

It is only in the year 2000 that the German and the Swiss descendants of Jadwiga Polucha Fahrni came to know about the existence of their Polish cousins. Before that, the Swiss and the German descendants only knew that Grandmother Hedwige "Jadwiga" was born in Poland, that she was widowed from a Michael Szwed and that she had had children in Poland who were lost during the upheavals of the First World War.

Jadwiga's life story was vague and it only became known in more details during the last years of her life, when she was resting in the Monastery attached to the "Saint John The Baptist Church" of Erkrath, near Dusseldorf. Knowing that her life was nearing the end, she often gave way to her deep sorrow and cried when visited by her daughter Herta and her two granddaughters Karin and Angelika. She confessed and felt ashamed that she had lost her three small Szwed children in Poland during the war. She felt extremely guilty for having abandoned her three young children in Lukowa in 1914. She should never have emigrated to Saxony for work with the intention of sending money back to Lukowa for the upbringing of her three Szwed children. Her daughter Herta Borsch-Fahrni always attempted to reassure her that it was not her fault; the tragedy was due to the First World War and to the sudden and early death of her first husband that provoked this sorrowful situation.

Grandmother Jadwiga died on 25th November, 1968, in the Monastery of Erkrath, at the age of 87. Unfortunately, she never knew for certain whether her three Szwed children had survived the war in Poland.

I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to Mrs Jolanta Ksiezopolska, of the Polish Embassy in Dubai, who helped me research the Jadwiga Polucha-Szwed descendants. There is no doubt that Jolanta cleared the way for starting my research with the Zamosc Record Office. She also translated all official documents from Polish into English. Furthermore, Jolanta greatly contributed in my search of the living Szwed descendants throughout Poland.

The archive bureau "Archiwum Panstwowe" of Zamosc provided us with birth, wedding and death certificates of the Polucha-Szwed lineage, going back to 1850. This led me into contact with cousin Wojciech Szwed junior and his family, living in Kamieniec Zabkowicki. Soon after, Wojciech led us to cousin Stanislaw Oliwiak and his extended family clan in Chelm. And finally, Stanislaw led us to Marianna Szwed Okoniewska, the widow of Jozep, and to her two daughters.

Family Reunion, Chelm, Poland, 2003



Many attendants to the reunion are missing on this picture.

Back row:

Gottfried Fahrni Jr, Marek Kozlowski, Lukasz Banka, Krystian Oliwiak, Dawid Banka, Tomek Oliwiak, Boguslawa Oliwiak, Stanislaw Oliwiak;

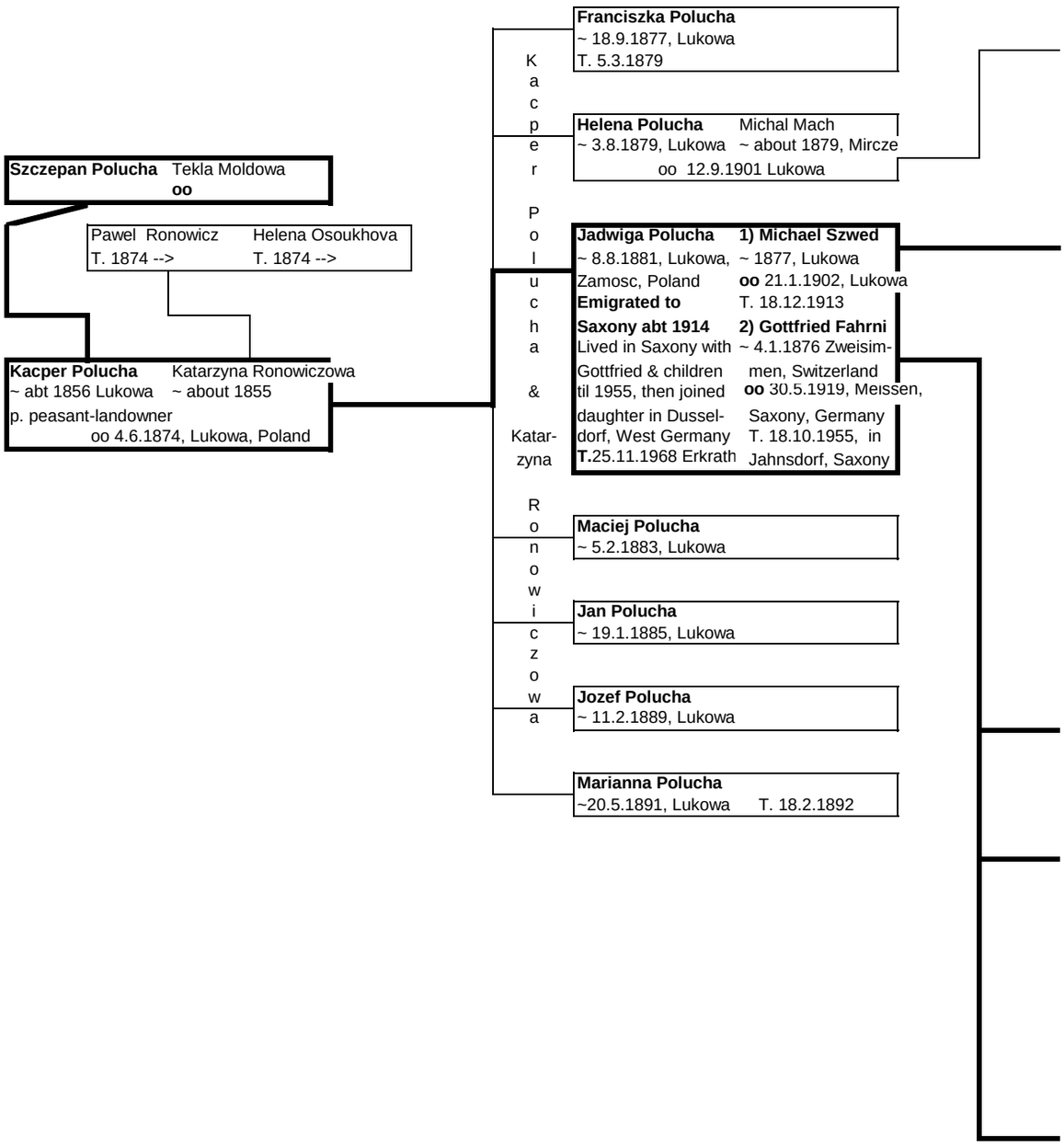
Middle row:

Agnieszka Kozlowska; Malgorzata Banka; Lilka Swiderska; Christine Fahrni-Danz; Martina Keller; Karl Heinz Keller; Georg Paul Sikorski; Urszula Anna Szwed-Pieczynski;

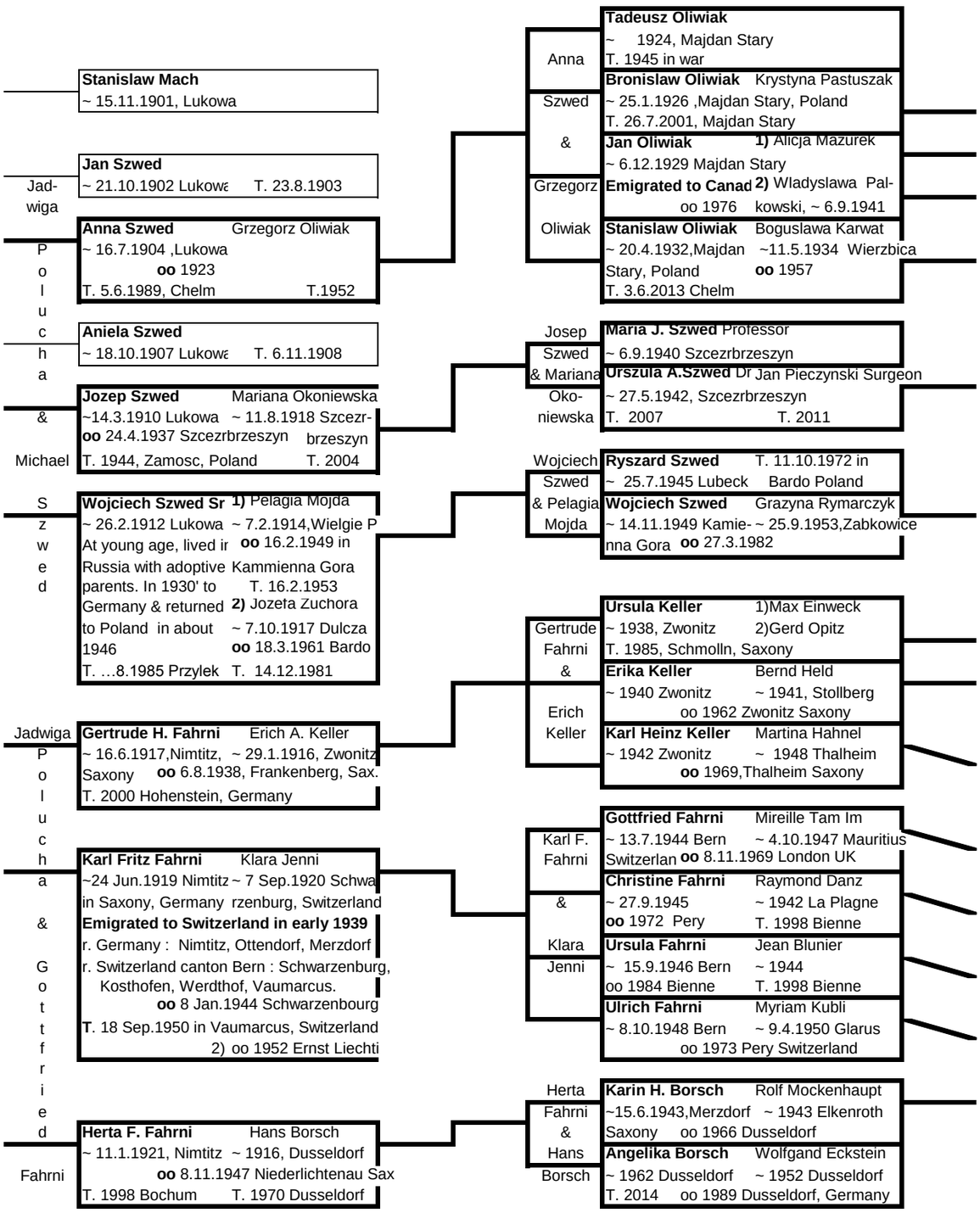
Front row:

Jakub Banka; Anna Pieczynska; Maria Jozefa Szwed; Jan Pieczynski; Zbigniew Swiderski.

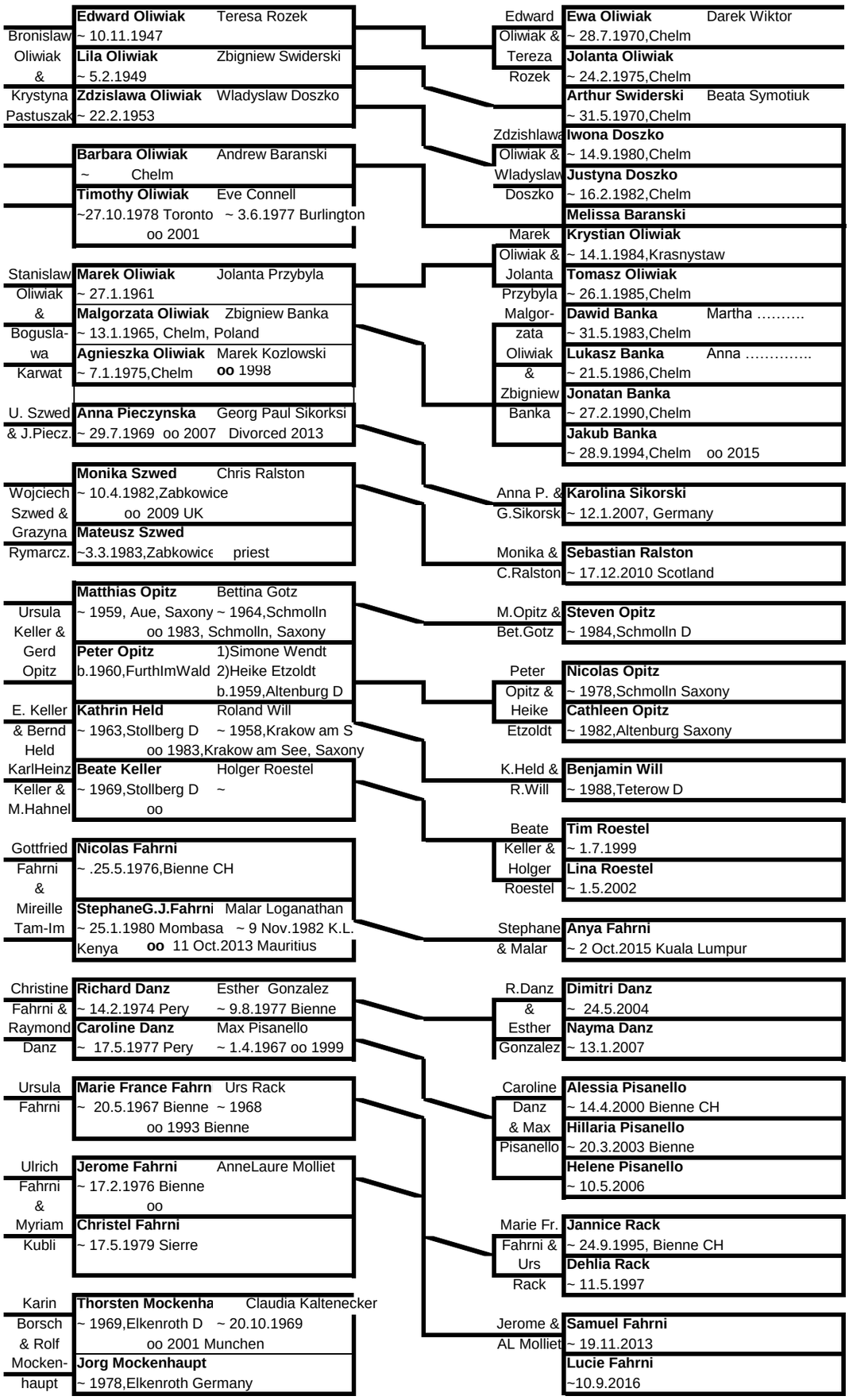
POLUCHA - FAHRNI FAMILY TREE page 1



POLUCHA - FAHRNI FAMILY TREE page 2

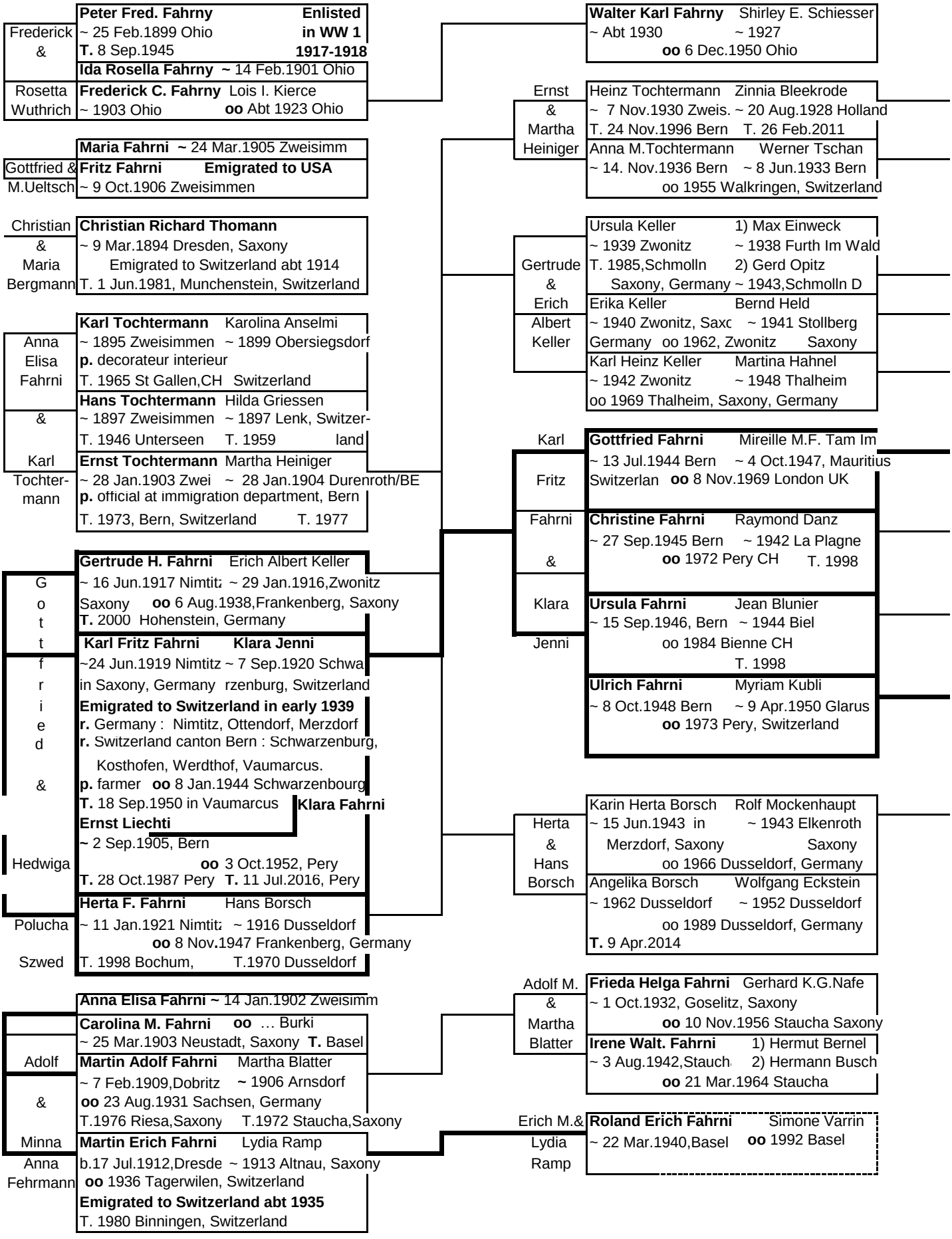


POLUCHA - FAHRNI FAMILY TREE page 3



GENARATION 11

GENERATION 12



Generation 11

Karl Fritz Fahrni was born on 24 June 1919 in Nimtitz, situated in Kalbschutztal, about 10 km from Meissen, near Dresden in Saxony.
In the 1920's, Nimtitz was a small farming village of about 80 inhabitants.
It is presumed that Karl and his two sisters, Gertrude and Herta, attended their early schooling in the nearby village of Lothain, located within 3 km in walking distance. Lothain is known for its old school that was located in the Romerhaus, in the Steigergasse, which used to be the manor-house of the local Lordship. The Romerhaus school had been operating from 1897 until 1972, accommodating the schooling for the surrounding small villages. The school building is still standing today.

Not much is known about Karl Fahrni's early life because his Father, Gottfried Senior, and his Mother, Jadwiga, had very few documented communications with the family back in Switzerland. The lack of contact occurred due to the historical events of the 1930's. Germany was experiencing a frightful darkening of life, with the ascension of Hitler to power, making it difficult to communicate with contacts and family abroad.



1 Staat/État/Country: Bundesrepublik Deutschland — Formule A
2 Standesamtsbehörde / Service de l'état civil de / Civil Registry Office of: Meißen
3 Auszug aus dem Geburtseintrag Nr. 228/1919 / Extrait de l'acte de naissance n° / Extract from birth registration no.

		Jo	Mo	An	
4	Tag und Ort der Geburt / Date et lieu de naissance / Date and place of birth	24	06	1919	Nimtitz
5	Name / Nom/Name	Fahrni			
6	Vornamen / Prénoms/Forenames	Fritz Karl			
7	Geschlecht / Sexe/Sex	M			

		8 Vater / Père/Father	9 Mutter / Mère/Mother
5	Name / Nom/Name	Fahrni	Fahrni geb. Polucha
6	Vornamen / Prénoms/Forenames	Gottfried	Hedwig

10 Andere Angaben aus dem Eintrag/Autres énonciations de l'acte/Other particulars of the registration

11 Tag der Ausstellung / Date de délivrance/ Date of issue: Jo 17 Mo 07 An 2007

(Hempel)
Unterschrift/Signature/Signature — Siegel/Sceau/Seal

Karl F. Fahrni birth certificate

Surprisingly, quite a few pictures depicting the then-teenager Karl survived. These pictures ended up in Switzerland, presumably sent with the traditional end-of-year congratulations. Likewise, not much information about growing up in Nimtitz could be obtained from Karl's two sisters, Gertrude and Herta, who never left their Germany. It seems that Karl never really shared his childhood memories with his wife Klara, our mother-to-be, after they married in Switzerland.

Or, perhaps he did share his souvenirs, but our mother no longer remembered much when she reached the age of 70, the time I started to ask detailed questions about our deceased father's early years. Sadly, Karl did not have the opportunity of relating the story of his childhood in Saxony to his four children. He died much too soon at the age of 31, when we were toddlers, aged 2 to 6. But the pictures that survived of our father were handed down to us, as his descendants, as a fascinating representation of his early life.

Karl lived with his parents and siblings in Nimtitz until he was about eleven years old. Only two pictures remain of Karl of that period; the first one was when he was about 7 years old sitting on a bull on the farm with his father. The second picture was taken when he was about 11 years old, leading a large bull by himself, exhibiting his courage and growing up within the farming environment of his father. These two pictures were taken in the courtyard of the same farmhouse in Nimtitz. Although we do not have anything like a full appreciation of the political events that unfolded around the Nimtitz rural area up to 1930, it is safe to assume that the farming region was socially and politically quiet, being far away from Berlin.



First known picture of Karl Fahrni dated about 1926, when he was 7 years old, sitting on a bull led by his father on the farm in Nimtitz near Meissen, Saxony.



On the same farm in Nimtitz, picture taken in 1930. Now 11 years old, Karl Fahrni is more confident and leads the bull by himself.

Around 1931, the Fahrni family left Nimtitz to settle down 40 km to the East, in the farming village of Ottendorf-Okrilla, not far from the Polish-Czech borders. Ottendorf was also a farming community, but much larger than Nimtitz, with about 4500 inhabitants. In the 1930's, the Ottendorf region became strategically important for the military because of its geographic proximity to the Polish frontier. The first picture of Karl in Ottendorf is dated to about 1934, when he was 15 years old. The scene shows ten boys in their teens, on bicycles, all wearing the Hitler Jugend (HJ) uniform. The previous year, all youth clubs (Boy Scouts, etc.) were incorporated into the Hitler Youth structure; enrollment to the HJ for boys10-18 was compulsory. Boys attended normal schools and wore their uniform only for parades, meetings and holiday camps. As Germany was undergoing a revolution that reached deep into the fabric of society, Karl's enlistment into the Hitler Youth organization, (then the only permitted youth structure allowed in the country) appears to have been entirely acceptable and normal at the time. In any case, the parents could not have refused the enrollment of Karl into the HJ without suffering dear consequences.





15-years-old Karl Fahrni in about 1934, in his Hitler Youth uniform at a Summer camp.

Karl and his family must have been aware and frightened by the growing thunder of Nazi propaganda and rule of terror that existed in Germany as of 1934. In June of that year, the first blood purge of startling proportion was orchestrated by Hitler and his henchmen Goering, Himmler and Goebbels. Targeted in this bloodbath that resulted in thousands of deaths were leadership of special army units as well as many intellectuals and opponents to the new regime. These murders, without warrant or trial, were justified by Hitler as a need to restore public security and order. This is how the so-called "unpatriotic" opposition elements, the enemies of the State, were removed.

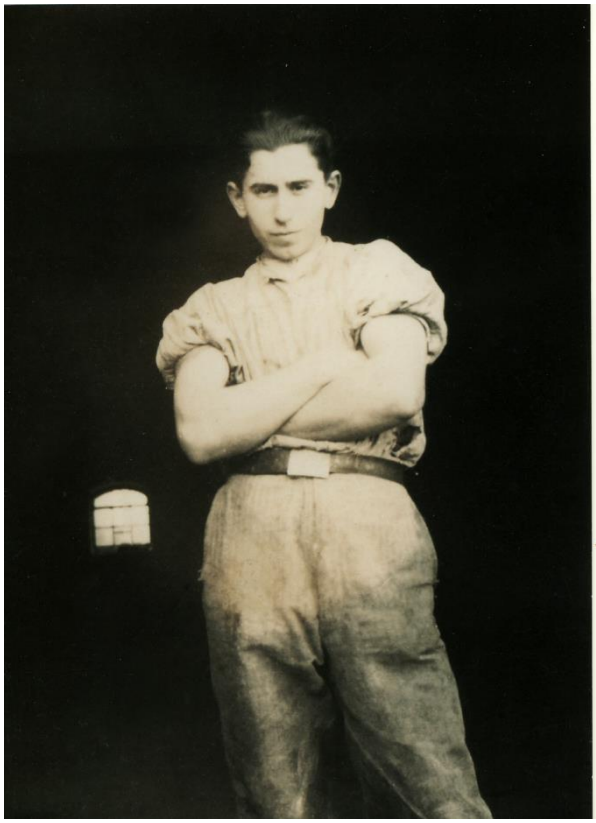
Karl was 15 years old then, and despite his limited village education, he was certainly aware of what was happening. Legend has it that with the advice of his parents, Karl had already started to consider fleeing to Switzerland, the country of his ancestors. His father, Gottfried Sr., has had the good sense of maintaining the Swiss nationality of his three children. But Karl's dream to emigrate to Switzerland would become true only four years later, just before the outbreak of the Second World War. Indeed, to part with one's family and country of birth at this young age of 15 - without any certainty to meet the distant family in Switzerland - is a big step that needs courage, planning and money. Besides, the then-state-controlled media was giving Germans some hope for a better life in the future. This probably delayed Karl's emigration to Switzerland. A picture dated around 1936 shows 17-year-old Karl on the farm with the entire milking team, without any sign of him still belonging to the Hitler Youth.



Karl F. Fahrni, in 1936 (right of picture) seems to be happy within the farming environment of his father in Ottendorf. He was 17 years old.

Around 1937, the Fahrni family moved 40 km southwest to the village of Merzdorf, Nieder-Lichtenau, not far from Frankenberg. But Karl did not stay very long in Merzdorf with his parents, probably less than two years before fleeing to Switzerland. Only two pictures survived from Karl during this period, both dating of around 1938, standing arms crossed, and playing the accordion. These two pictures indicate a kind of grieving souvenir, taken by the family before Karl's departure. All were aware, then, that the Nazi rhetoric pointed toward a march to an all-out war. This clearly led Karl's family to an understanding that they were saying good-bye to their son as he departed. These photos are poignant proof of a sad farewell. The family was expecting the worst and their only son was attempting to have a new life in Switzerland. What made this departure worse was that grandmother Jadwiga was spiritual, a staunch Catholic and very emotional. As an émigré herself, she fondly remembered her family and ancestors back in Poland. It is, therefore, understandable that with the hardships and deprivations that lay ahead with the anticipated war, the departure of her son was particularly distressful.





It seems entirely legitimate to assume that Karl would have been forcefully conscripted into the Wehrmacht, had he stayed in Germany beyond his 20th birthday, in June 1939. Because the invasion of Poland was expected to take place soon, it was even more urgent for him to flee the war. The first quarter of 1939 was the breaking point for 19-year-old Karl Fahrni. This is when our father-to-be Karl packed his bags and showed resolve to embark on his trip to the unknown, hopefully to reach Switzerland and start a new life in the country of his ancestors. By 1939, the German railway (Deutsche Reichsbahn) was proficient and by far the best developed rail system of Europe. The rail itinerary our father-to-be Karl Fahrni most certainly took was Frankenberg-Nuremberg-Stuttgart-Zurich/Basel. Undoubtedly, Karl's 700 km journey to Switzerland was a much less stressful one than that of his mother's emigration from Poland to Saxony in 1914. Soon after his arrival in Switzerland, Karl was enlisted into the Swiss military, which momentarily spared him the burden of finding a place to work and sleep.



Karl Fahrni arrived on the Swiss borders in the first quarter of 1939, unsure of what the future held for him. Presumably, he was conscripted into the Swiss military a few months after his arrival, during the first general mobilization in September 1939. On the other hand, he might also have been included in the second mobilization in May 1940, when the Swiss military conscripted additional 700,000 men. The building up of the Swiss armed forces was the result of the disastrous French debacle of May 1940 and the German invasion. Switzerland needed a stronger army to safeguard its long-standing neutrality. Karl's uniform epaulette number and collar insignia, shown above, indicate that he was incorporated into an infantry regiment.

The exact length of our Karl's conscription into the Swiss army is unknown, but considering that Europe was at war and him being single, he may have spent one to two years in the military. Karl Fahrni possessed the Swiss nationality through his father, but having been born and raised in Germany, he was not always considered as a true fellow-countryman by his peers. His German accent from Saxony was easily recognizable in Switzerland and, understandably, the population had anti-German feelings during the war period. What lay ahead for Karl was that he had difficulties to fully integrate into the Swiss society, first in the military and later in the civilian life. There was nothing inherently wrong about living in Switzerland in the 1940's, but the war tensions towards the Germans often made Karl's life uncomfortable. However, considering the existing circumstances, this hardly meant that Karl's move to Switzerland had been a bad decision.

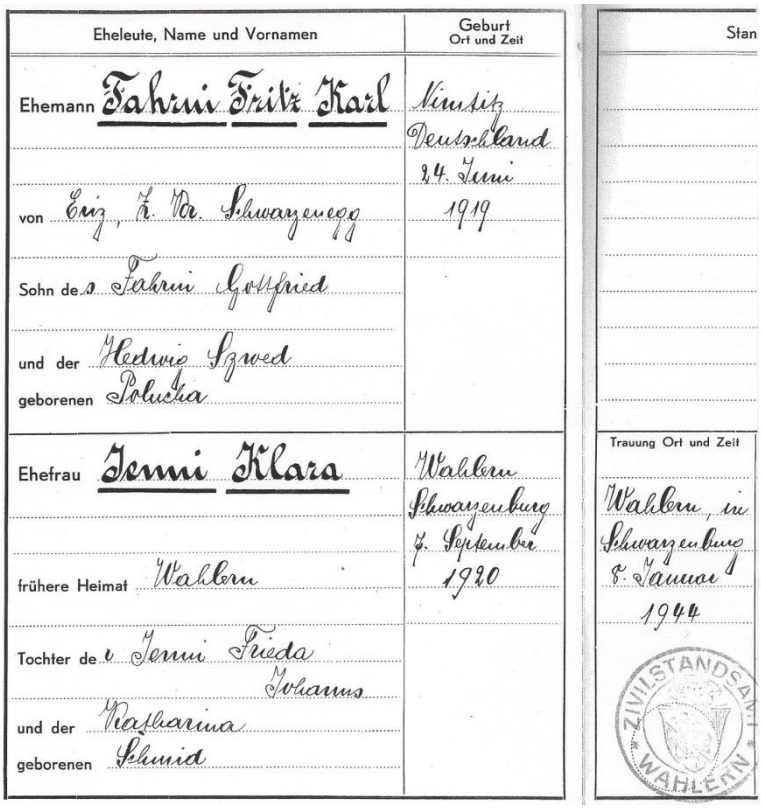
Unfortunately, there was practically no economic opportunity during the war, and Karl's professional future in Switzerland undoubtedly kept him in a similar farming job he had when living in Saxony. After his discharge from the Swiss army, Karl found a job as a cow keeper/milker on a farm at Niederscherli, in canton Bern. He knew that he would never become an "Oberschweizer" like his father was in Saxony, because farms in Switzerland were too small to warrant hiring a supervisor of the three "cow, horse and pig" stables . Karl was then only 23 years old and, in the circumstances, he was doubtful that he would ever have his own farm, due to lack of money.

The positive news, however, is that it was in Niederscherli that Karl met his future wife, 21-one-year-old Klara Jenni, our mother-to-be. According to our mother, they met on the village square one sunny Sunday afternoon; she was promenading the two children in her charge and Karl was heading towards the farm stables to milk his thirty cows. During 1942 and 1943, Klara Jenni was working as an au-pair lady with Doctor Kfeller, the Niederscherli village dentist. This first chance meeting between Karl and Klara led to other chance meetings, until they became planned rendezvous, and soon fondness, affection and a love- relationship was born.



Wedding of Karl F. Fahrni & Klara Jenni on 8 Jan.1944 in Schwarzenburg, canton Bern. Karl was 25 years old and Klara 23. Klara was born and raised in Schwarzenburg.

Wedding certificate dated 8 January 1944, issued in Wahlern, of Karl F. Fahrni and Klara Jenni. Schwarzenburg, in those days, belonged to the district of Wahlern.



Eheleute, Name und Vornamen	Geburt Ort und Zeit	Stan
Ehemann Fahrni Fritz Karl	Neudietz Deutschland 24. Juni 1919	
von Eriz, z. Da. Schwarzenegg		
Sohn des Fahrni Gottfried		
und der Hedwig Szwed		
geborenen Poluchia		
Ehefrau Jenni Klara	Wahlern Schwarzenburg 7. September 1920	Trauung Ort und Zeit: Wahlern, in Schwarzenburg 8. Januar 1944
frühere Heimat Wahlern		
Tochter des Jenni Frieda Johanna		
und der Katharina		
geborenen Schmid		

ZIVILSTANDSAMT WAHLERN

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Wahlern church, near Schwarzenburg




Grandmother Frieda Jenni-Riesen

Our mother Klara was the daughter of a single mother, Frieda Jenni (1899-1989) who, at the age of 21, became pregnant by a school friend and local farmer named Edward Kreuter (1899-1963). Contrary to deep-rooted tradition at the time, Grandmother Frieda refused to marry the father of her child, choosing to affront the disapproval of her parents and of the community of Schwarzenburg.

Two years later, Grandmother Frieda married Rudolf Riesen, the village repairer and restorer of motorcycles. Together, they had five children; our mother Klara grew up as the eldest child and half-sister in the family.

After their wedding in 1944, Karl and Klara Fahrni left Niederscherli to settle in nearby Werdthof, near Kappelen, where Karl found employment with a larger farming estate. But even in neutral Switzerland, life was difficult during WWII. Although the country was not invaded, nor subjected to bombardments, salaries were very low and food was officially rationed. Usually, large farm owners would give housing to their main permanent staff, so Karl and his wife Klara lived in a small house situated on the farming estate. Here again, food rationing was less stringent for those living on a farm, just like his father Gottfried Sr. experienced with his family during hard times in Saxony.

Nevertheless, Karl Fahrni's life story unfolding in the years that followed is rather complex; on the one hand, Karl was following similar steps his father took in Saxony, moving from one farm to another in search of an opportunity to do better. But more to the point, Karl could not imagine gaining professional and material improvement in the prevailing circumstance. His wife and first child were not destitute of the basic comfort, but Karl expected a better life for his family.

However, our father Karl was aware that his grandfather, Johannes Fahrni who had died in 1914, had been a wealthy and successful businessperson in Zweisimmen. It was common knowledge that his grandfather, Johannes, had owned many plots of land besides a large vintage farmhouse in Zweisimmen.

By his own account, Karl's father, Gottfried, had instructed him - before leaving Saxony - that he should go to Zweisimmen, the town of the Fahrni clan. There should be money waiting, following the 1914 death of his grandfather Johannes. At the time of the deaths of Johannes Fahrni and his wife, his sons Gottfried, Adolf and Christian were already living in Saxony. Karl was instructed to go and ask for his lawful inheritance share from his aunt Anna Elisa Tochtermann-Fahrni, the only Fahrni member that still lived in Zweisimmen. He knew that with the inheritance money awaiting him, he could perhaps buy a farm of his own. Admittedly, our father Karl did travel to Zweisimmen in 1944, but he knocked on a closed door. Anna Elisa, his father's sister and the only blood related person still alive in Zweisimmen, did not even want to see and greet him. Karl resented the humiliation for not being met by his aunt. As he was ignorant of his rights, and knowing no counselor to turn to, our father Karl sadly acknowledged defeat and returned empty handed to his family in Werdthof.

He did not know, at that time, that the total inheritance, left behind by Johannes Fahrni, had been illegally confiscated by his aunt, Anna Elisa. But the fact that Anna Elisa had refused to meet him was a sign that she had something to hide. Unfortunately, Karl did not confront his aunt as he should have. Soon, he did figure out that she was guilty of having misappropriated the inheritance money of her three brothers. There is no wonder that, thereafter, the bond of trust of the Fahrni lineage towards Karl Tochtermann and his wife Anna Elisa Fahrni became distant and fractious, in the way of families with a contentious past.

Our father Karl was unhappy and dreamed of going back to Saxony with his family once the war was over. However, had he been insightful enough at the time, and found out about the wealth his grandfather had left behind in 1914, Karl's situation would have radically changed. Official documents show that the total inheritance left behind by Johannes Fahrni - to his four descendants - totaled about Swiss francs 20'000.- in 1914, representing over Sfr.300'000.- in 2016 value (according to the Historic Price Index of Switzerland, Federal Statistic Office).

Following a comprehensive research by a professional genealogist, we now have a clearer understanding of what really happened shortly before and after the death of Johannes Fahrni in March 1914, and of his wife two months later. Johannes Fahrni was a longtime inhabitant and respectable businessman of the town of Zweisimmen, engaged in farming, carpentry, transport and cheese making businesses. During the 1890's, Johannes did no less than three land purchases and sales transactions in the Zweisimmen area, which seems to indicate that he still remained active in life and was in good health.

Strangely enough, more than ten years later and now 68 years old, Johannes sold another piece of land of 2.5 hectares. But why sell land when one does not need the cash? Johannes had retired and lived comfortably with his wife in their beautiful three-storied house at the Muhlegasse 4. The assumption is now that Johannes made the sale of this land because of family pressure, which can only have been that his daughter and his son-in-law required the money. And there are other examples of the Tochtermann-Fahrni couple's lack of sincerity. For instance, is it not strange that, in May 1913, Karl Tochtermann suddenly obtained tutorial power over his father-in-law?. In June of that same year, Tochtermann Karl declared to the authorities that the assets of Johannes Fahrni amounted to Sfr.17'543.- (Gemeinderatsprotokoll Zweisimmen, B.624, p.198).

As legal guardian of Johannes Fahrni, his son-in-law Karl Tochtermann, saddler by profession, took immediate steps to put the Fahrni properties up for auction. The Fahrni primary residence at the Muhlegasse 4, and its content, was sold in July 1913 to the owner of the Hotel Krone in Zweisimmen, for Sfr.16'210.-. (Grundbuchampt Blankenburg, page 1/501).

From then onwards, Johannes Fahrni and his wife Anna, then respectively 72 and 78 years old, had vacated the Muhlegasse residence and lived in the house of their daughter, Anna Elisa, and her husband. For the upkeep of his parents-in-law, Karl Tochtermann requested, through his notary, a daily payment of Sfr.5.-, the amount of which was considered exaggerated. I would personally add that this request was strikingly inappropriate and denoted a lack of scruple. The very fact of claiming for an upkeep payment was a clear sign of blatant dishonesty on Tochtermann part. (Gemeinderatsprotokoll, Band 624, page209).

On 14th March 1914, Johannes Fahrni was found, without life, on the railway crossing of nearby Saanen. Johannes often went for long walks in the region and he seems to have had a heart attack. Following the death of her husband, Anna Fahrni-Thomann was made to agree to a proposed last will, dated 31 May 1914. The inheritance contract, at hand, clearly states that the proceeds of the Fahrni house and land sales are to be distributed in four equal parts in favor of the four children, namely Anna Elisa, Gottfried and Adolf Fahrni and her first son, Christian Thomann (Zweisimmen archives no.39 & 25 page 247).

An inheritance contract is always accompanied by a distribution of the assets contract, allocating the various items and cash amounts to each of the inheritors. There exists such a distribution of assets document, dated 8 June 1914 (Gemeinderatsprotokoll 624, page 251), but it is incomplete. More to the point, the document states that the three sons, Gottfried, Adolf and Christian, were living in a foreign country; that their addresses were unknown. This assertion was a blatant misrepresentation of the truth, as we have evidence that the sons in Saxony were in sporadic postal communication with their family in Zweisimmen. It stands to reason to conclude that the fact of withholding the knowledge of the three brothers' physical address in Saxony is proof of intent to do wrong. The document states that 78-year-old Anna Fahrni-Thomann had been paralyzed for many years. The document further mentions that Anna Fahrni declared that due to her ill health she could not read, nor would she agree to sign the contract. The above facts indicate deception and put in doubt the truthfulness of this distribution of assets document.

The results of a thorough research in the Archives of Zweisimmen, Blankenburg and Bern are not surprising; the very document of distribution of assets was never completed. Understandably, the above raises the question we cannot escape; what happened to the inheritance money? To some it may seem provocative to assert that the assets distribution contract was intentionally buried and forgotten with the notary of Zweisimmen. In the process, it opened the door for Tochtermann and his wife to unlawfully acquire that totality of the inheritance money, in violation of the contract.

As the period in question was the beginning of the First World War, it is understandable that the deaths of Johannes Fahrni and wife Anna - as well as the inheritance arrangements – could not have been immediately transmitted to the three inheritors in Saxony. Then, as the years went by and the war had ended, it was quite convenient, in their crooked minds, that the matter be simply forgotten. Sometime later, with the probable complicity of the notary, the total amount of 300'000.- Swiss francs inheritance was illegally acquired by Karl Tochtermann and his wife, Anna Elisa Fahrni. This dubious Tochtermann-Fahrni couple deserves nothing but contempt. This action of misappropriating the inheritance money of the three Fahrni brothers by the Tochtermann-Fahrni couple was a felony under Swiss law. It was also, and remains to this date, a blatant betrayal by Anna Elisa of her three blood related brothers.

In retrospect, once the war was over, the three brothers from Saxony should have put the matter in action, in order to ensure a fair sharing of the inheritance. But it stands to reason to assume, that in the early 1920's, the three brothers did, in fact, request their part of the inheritance; most certainly, their claim remained unanswered by the Tochtermann-Fahrni couple.

Now let me take you back to the life story of our parents; the first three children of Klara and Karl Fahrni were born when the family lived in Werdthof, near Kappelen in canton Bern. We were born between 1944 and 1946, in a yearly succession as was customary at the time; I was the first born, followed by Christine and Ursula. As a three-year-old boy, I can recall only some bits of flash images from that time, but pure facts remain elusive. And then, do we really understand memory and how does one avoid blending early experience with imagination after more than 65 years? Being a toddler, our mother was obviously taking care of me and of my siblings at home, but I remember very little of her during that period. However, father's dealing with cows and horses in the stables impregnated strong images in my young brain. Father's farming activities triggered much interest in my very young boyhood life, especially when he was giving milk to the cats after milking the cows. With time, my father's physical features have faded in my memory, but I can still feel his shadow around me in the stables; unfortunately, the image of his face of that time and the sound of his voice are no longer present.

By the end of 1946, our father Karl relocated with wife and three small children from Werdthof to Kosthofen, another farming village situated only about 10 km away. Our father's decision to move to another job was undoubtedly to improve his lot and do better professionally. The farm in Kosthofen was apparently larger than that of his previous location; the salary and conditions must have been somewhat better to warrant the move. The fourth and last child, Ulrich, was born when the family lived in Kosthofen. According to mother, it was as if our father's reveries to possess one day his own farm were unabated. His job-moves were aimed at exploring opportunities elsewhere, in search of fulfilling his dream. But even in Switzerland, the prevailing circumstances of the after-war period were not easy, and it was difficult to improve professionally as well as materially. Karl was surviving rather than thriving, and he wanted to do better in the future. According to mother, our father remained especially frustrated for having been deprived of grandfather's inheritance due to him.

During the years after WWII came to an end, our father was more firmly considering a return to Saxony with his wife and children. It was quite understandable that father had kept his heart in Saxony, the place of his birth, and where his parents and siblings were still living. As previously mentioned, our father was forcefully enlisted into the Hitler Youth when he was 15 years old. Later, seeing the war coming in 1939, he had fled to Switzerland, thus avoiding conscription into the German armed forces. However, during the period of 1946/48, our father went by the wrong premiss that, with the end of the war, everything should be fine and, consequently, he saw his future back in Saxony. My own assessment is that father's perception of the situation was totally misled during that time, as he did not understand the implications of a divided Germany. The eastern part of Germany from which he originated was under Russian occupation, but father did not realize the consequences of this foreign occupation. Although news from family in Saxony were scarce and far between, the frightening stories of communism and the abuses by the Russian army on the East German civilian population did, with time, filter through. Thankfully, the growing evidence of the new geopolitical situation soon put an end to our father's dream to take us all to his Saxony in East Germany.

During spring of 1949, our father Karl moved the family to Vaumarcus in the French part of Switzerland. It is tempting to say that during the few short years she was married to our father, our poor mother Klara was dragged through life with a change of home location every two to three years. It seems that father's decisions to move jobs were not much discussed with his wife, but it was our mother who was regularly exposed to considerable stress of moving house with young children and household. Every two to three years, our Karl felt the need to move on, to go to somewhere else to a new employment with better opportunities. Father had a self-reliant character, believing in individual actions for improvement. But when looking back at father's two previous Fahrni generations, it is obvious that Karl Fahrni had inherited this ambition to move forward from his ancestors. It is worth remembering that his granduncles, Johann-Christian and Peter Fahrni, had both immigrated to America in the 1850's as did his Grandaunt Suzanne a few years later. And Karl's own father, Gottfried Fahrni, and his uncles, Christian and Adolf, had all emigrated from Zweisimmen to Germany at the start of the 20th century. Unsurprisingly, our father's insatiable need to move forward was deeply permeated in his genes.

In Vaumarcus, our father was employed as the man in charge of the cows and horses stables of the famous Chateau de Vaumarcus. In the 1950's, the Castle was operating solely as a private farming estate.



Castle of Vaumarcus, canton of Neuchatel

From the 11th century onwards, the medieval castle of Vaumarcus, pictured above, was the property of the ruling "Vaumarcus" dynasty. The castle is located on the shores of Lake Neuchatel, in the then Prussian and later French Principality of Neuchatel. In 1814, it joined the Swiss Confederation to become the canton of Neuchâtel. For many generations, the barons and noblemen of Vaumarcus played a major political, legal and ecclesiastical role in the surrounding areas. They were closely related to the Neuchatel princes and the neighboring barons. The imposing fortified structures of the chateau buildings, with its gun-turrets and fort loopholes, confirm that the castle had a defensive and military vocation for many centuries. In the 19th century, a large part of the land of the castle was sold to private landowners.

As a six-year-old boy, I continued to follow in the steps of my father, visiting him in the stables most evenings. I was greatly impressed by the size of the castle, where everything seemed to be huge and old; the buildings, the doors, the stables and the high stonewalls enclosing the castle had dimensions that were previously unknown to me. Karl Fahrni and I, his first son, often shared a secret ritual that took place in his very large cows stable. I can clearly remember that the feeding of the cats with milk, in the evenings, was my responsibility and this made a great impact on me. Below, another view of Chateau de Vaumarcus.





This is the only family picture of Karl F. Fahrni and his wife Klara, with their four small children. It was taken in the summer of 1949, about one year prior to our father's sudden death.

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It was on 18 September 1950, barely one year after our arrival in Vaumarcus, that tragedy struck and shattered our young family with the unexpected death of our father Karl Fahrni. Although I was too young then to remember the details, mother told us that our father went to the nearby hospital where they diagnosed him with a furuncle infection in the neck. This soon developed into septicemia, undoubtedly due to medical incompetence, which led to father's death within ten days. Karl Fahrni died much too early, aged 31, abandoning a young wife and four young children. It is in the cemetery of the village of Vaumarcus, overlooking Lake Neuchatel, that rests Karl F. Fahrni, our father.



Unfortunately, the life of our father was too brief on this earth to leave many concrete and tangible memories to us, his descendants. I do not know much of what sort of person our father was, except that he was kind to me but always very busy. Did my father love animals and nature? Certainly he did, having lived in a farming environment all of his short life. Did he like music? I do not remember hearing him sing or play music; it is only much later – when he was long gone – that I discovered picture of my father playing the accordion as a teenager in Saxony. I also learned later, through family hearsay, that he was sometimes singing and yodeling together with his father Gottfried Sr.

Memories of my mother and of my father

Did father give his children quality time and was he cajoling me and my siblings? I cannot remember this, but mother always said that he was a loving father. Personally, I certainly had quality time when he helped me give milk to the cats. This ritual of feeding the cats stirred my emotions each time I visited father in the stables.

Suddenly widowed and alone in this world with her four young children, our mother Klara Fahrni faced her tragedy with dignity. In her precarious situation, she provided courageously for the needs of her four children. At first, she took us back to her parents' home in Schwarzenburg, and soon found a job as a cook in that village. However, the weeping of our mother, still mourning the disappearance of her husband every evening during the months following the tragedy, will remain forever impregnated in my memory.

As a young widow, our mother Klara endured her misfortune and suffering with astounding courage and merit. It stands to reason, therefore, to acknowledge that mother's decision to separate herself from her two eldest children was unavoidable. Sending two of her children to distant family was imposed upon her by the circumstances, but she promised to herself that this would only be temporary. Sooner rather than later, she would have to remarry in order to reunite all of her four children under a same roof.

It was through an advertisement in the press, two years after the death of our father, when mother met Ernest Liechti, her future second husband. They were married on 3 October 1952 in the church of Pery-Reuchenette, the village of his residence. Mother's marriage to her second husband was a marriage of reason, but it lasted more than thirty-five years, until the death of our adoptive father, Ernest, in 1987. Our mother Klara had the good instinct to choose Ernest as her second spouse, and we remain infinitely grateful to her. For it is undeniable that it was through her marriage with Ernst Liechti that the stability and unity of the family were restored. Nevertheless, mother would remind us children, for many years onward, on the death anniversary of our genetic father Karl Fahrni.



Ernst Liechti and our mother Klara, many years after their wedding.

From the very beginning, our adoptive father proved to be the giant of kindness towards us, the children; very soon we simply considered him as our father. In the new home of La Reuchenette, where the family was finally reunited, our mother Klara symbolized more than anyone else the nucleus around which we all existed. For many years onward, she managed the family to perfection, always welcoming us with generosity for birthdays, Christmas and family reunions. With the unfailing energy that animated her throughout her life, she was always present to help out. It was around our mother Klara that everything was happening as she clearly occupied the matriarchal position at home.

Our mother Klara loved to look after her visiting grandchildren and great-grandchildren, but she was not the type to hug them all day long, since she took care of everything in the house and really did not have the time. Mother was devoted to the family clan, and she always gave unreservedly with a great heart.

Klara Fahrni-Liechti left this earth on July 11, 2016 in the Foyer for Seniors in Orvin, overhanging the beautiful valley of the same name. She was due to celebrate her 96th birthday in September, and her close family was already thinking of the preparations for the little lunch party that was due to her each year. But her bronchitis was too strong and she no longer possessed the needed resistance to recover. We wept her departure, although knowing that, for her, it was the deliverance she desired. According to her wishes, Klara Liechti Fahrni is resting in the cemetery of Pery on the tomb of her second husband.



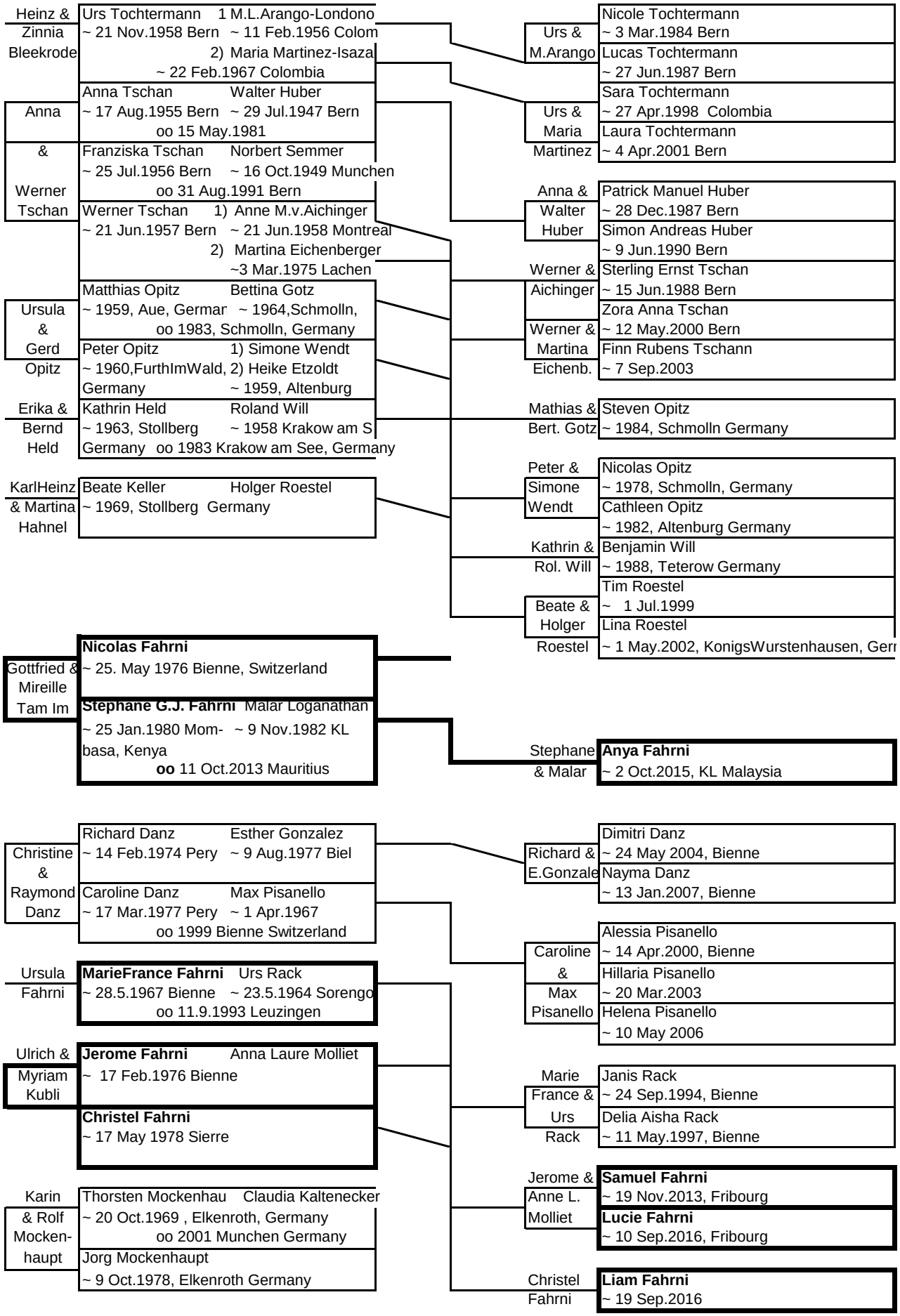
Klara Jenni ~ Fahrni ~ Liechti

Born 7.9.1920 Schwarzenburg Died 11.7.2016 Bienne



Von Farne, Farni & Fahrni Ancestors' Places of Residence

Gen.	Ancestors	From	To	Years	Location
1	Christanus & Barbara Mathysenn	<--1532	1561 -->	29 +	Eriz
2	Steffan & Barbara Dummermuth	1560	1606 -->	46 +	Eriz
3	Ulrich & Anna Gluecki	1604	1662	58	Eriz
	Ancestors lived approximately 140 years in Eriz				
3	Ulrich & Anna Gluecki	1662	1664 -->	2 +	Thierachern
4	Peter	1640	1662	22	Eriz
4	Peter & Barbara Itten	1662	1678 -->	17 +	Reudlen
5	Hans & Anna Poler	1671	1754	83	Reudlen
6	Christen & Katharina Schluchter	1718	1785	67	Reudlen
7	Peter	1764	1788	24	Reudlen
	Ancestors lived approximately 130 years in Reudlen				
7	Peter & Magdalena Wenger	1788	1816	28	Gwatt
8	Christian	1791	1829	38	Gwatt
	Ancestors lived approximately 41 years in Gwatt				
8	Christian & Magdalena Kneubuhl	1829	1841	12	Unterlangenegg
9	Johannes	1841	1870	29	Unterlangenegg
	Ancestors lived approximately 41 years in Unterlangenegg				
9	Johannes & Anna Thomann	1870	1914	44	Zweisimmen
10	Gottfried	1876	1907	31	Zweisimmen
	Ancestors lived approximately 37 years in Zweisimmen				
10	Gottfried & Hedwiga Polucha	1907	1955	48	Sachsen
11	Karl Fritz	1919	1939	20	Sachsen
11	Karl Fritz & Klara Jenni	1939	1950	11	canton Bern


Heinz & Zinnia Bleekrode
Urs Tochtermann ~ 21 Nov.1958 Bern
1 M.L.Arango-Londono ~ 11 Feb.1956 Colom
2) Maria Martinez-Isaza ~ 22 Feb.1967 Colombia
Anna & Werner Tschan
Anna Tschan ~ 17 Aug.1955 Bern
Walter Huber ~ 29 Jul.1947 Bern
oo 15 May.1981
Franziska Tschan ~ 25 Jul.1956 Bern
Norbert Semmer ~ 16 Oct.1949 Munchen
oo 31 Aug.1991 Bern
Werner Tschan ~ 21 Jun.1957 Bern
1) Anne M.v.Aichinger ~ 21 Jun.1958 Montreal
2) Martina Eichenberger ~3 Mar.1975 Lachen
Ursula & Gerd Opitz
Matthias Opitz ~ 1959, Aue, Germar
Bettina Gotz ~ 1964,Schmolln, oo 1983, Schmolln, Germany
Peter Opitz ~ 1960,FurthImWald, Germany
1) Simone Wendt ~ 1959, Altenburg
2) Heike Etzoldt
Erika & Bernd Held
Kathrin Held ~ 1963, Stollberg Germany
Roland Will ~ 1958 Krakow am S oo 1983 Krakow am See, Germany
KarlHeinz & Martina Hahnel
Beate Keller ~ 1969, Stollberg
Holger Roestel Germany
Urs & M.Arango
Nicole Tochtermann ~ 3 Mar.1984 Bern
Lucas Tochtermann ~ 27 Jun.1987 Bern
Urs & Maria Martinez
Sara Tochtermann ~ 27 Apr.1998 Colombia
Laura Tochtermann ~ 4 Apr.2001 Bern
Anna & Walter Huber
Patrick Manuel Huber ~ 28 Dec.1987 Bern
Simon Andreas Huber ~ 9 Jun.1990 Bern
Werner & Aichinger
Sterling Ernst Tschan ~ 15 Jun.1988 Bern
Werner & Martina Eichenb.
Zora Anna Tschan ~ 12 May.2000 Bern
Finn Rubens Tschann ~ 7 Sep.2003
Mathias & Bert. Gotz
Steven Opitz ~ 1984, Schmolln Germany
Peter & Simone Wendt
Nicolas Opitz ~ 1978, Schmolln, Germany
Cathleen Opitz ~ 1982, Altenburg Germany
Kathrin & Rol. Will
Benjamin Will ~ 1988, Teterow Germany
Beate & Holger Roestel
Tim Roestel ~ 1 Jul.1999
Lina Roestel ~ 1 May.2002, KonigsWurstenhausen, Gerr
Gottfried & Mireille Tam Im
Nicolas Fahrni ~ 25. May 1976 Bienne, Switzerland
Stephane G.J. Fahrni Malar Loganathan ~ 25 Jan.1980 Mombasa, Kenya
~ 9 Nov.1982 KL
oo 11 Oct.2013 Mauritius
Stephane & Malar
Anya Fahrni ~ 2 Oct.2015, KL Malaysia
Christine & Raymond Danz
Richard Danz ~ 14 Feb.1974 Pery
Esther Gonzalez ~ 9 Aug.1977 Biel
Caroline Danz ~ 17 Mar.1977 Pery
Max Pisanello ~ 1 Apr.1967
oo 1999 Bienne Switzerland
Ursula Fahrni
MarieFrance Fahrni ~ 28.5.1967 Bienne
Urs Rack ~ 23.5.1964 Sorengo
oo 11.9.1993 Leuzingen
Ulrich & Myriam Kubli
Jerome Fahrni ~ 17 Feb.1976 Bienne
Anna Laure Molliet
Christel Fahrni ~ 17 May 1978 Sierre
Karin & Rolf Mocken-haupt
Thorsten Mockenhau ~ 20 Oct.1969 , Elkenroth, Germany
Claudia Kaltenecker oo 2001 Munchen Germany
Jorg Mockenhaupt ~ 9 Oct.1978, Elkenroth Germany
Richard & E.Gonzale
Dimitri Danz ~ 24 May 2004, Bienne
Nayma Danz ~ 13 Jan.2007, Bienne
Caroline & Max Pisanello
Alessia Pisanello ~ 14 Apr.2000, Bienne
Hillaria Pisanello ~ 20 Mar.2003
Helena Pisanello ~ 10 May 2006
Marie France & Urs Rack
Janis Rack ~ 24 Sep.1994, Bienne
Delia Aisha Rack ~ 11 May.1997, Bienne
Jerome & Anne L. Molliet
Samuel Fahrni ~ 19 Nov.2013, Fribourg
Lucie Fahrni ~ 10 Sep.2016, Fribourg
Christel Fahrni
Liam Fahrni ~ 19 Sep.2016

THE CASTLE OF THUN, SEAT OF BERNESE POLITICAL CONTROL OF STEFFISBURG REGION DURING THE LATE MIDDLE AGES



During the early part of 16th Century, our Fahrni ancestors migrated from their native village of Farne to the nearby Eriz valley, which belonged to the Parish jurisdiction of Steffisburg. As family names were not yet in use at that time, the Eriz inhabitants identified our ancestors as "von Farne", coming from the village of Farne. For example, the Peter, Johannes, etc. "von Farne" registrations in the church books, with the patronymic origins of Farne that changed to Farni and Fahrni over time.

This book, which began as a quest to understand the sense of enterprise, ambition and emigration to America and Germany of some of our ancestors, will take the reader on a journey through time that spans 14 generations of Fahrni, Fahrney, Farni and Forney descendants originating from the Steffisburg region of Switzerland.

Gottfried Fahrni